

Hafa Adai!

DOL recovers more than  
\$10,000 in unpaid wages. » **PAGE 6**

ESGR national chair Paul Mock  
visits the CNMI. » **PAGE 16**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

**AS HAWAII RULING SHOWS**

## MITT findings vulnerable to lawsuit

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Navy's findings for the Marianas Islands training and testing area are vulnerable to a legal challenge, on the same grounds a court ruled against the adoption of similar military plans in the Hawaii and Southern California range, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

These plans failed to, among others, address a true "no action" training alternative, failed to analyze alternatives with less environmental harm,

and thus failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

**See MITT on Page 4**

## CNMI's economy posts robust figures for 2014

By JOEL PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Several economic indicators are pointing to an economic upswing for the CNMI in 2014.

A report released by the CNMI Department of Commerce on Thursday contained several key indicators including banking activity, imports and exports, building permits and values, and car sales, among others.

Almost all indicators indicate

an upward trend.

The report compared figures from 2013 and 2014, and provided a breakdown of the figures on a quarterly basis.

The report, however, did not contain a figure or estimate of the CNMI's gross domestic product for both years.

According to Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman, a report on the CNMI's consumer price index will be released separately.

**See ECONOMY on Page 4**



### A HUNT FOR CLUES

A relative points to a looped electric cord that he and family members of Traina Suda Jack recovered yesterday during their sifting of soil at the site where the remains of Jack were found near Obyan Beach. The family also recovered fingernail, hair, and pieces of bones at the site.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

**See story on Page 3**

## NAP begins accepting food stamp losses

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA  
frauline\_villanueva@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program is calling on clients who suffered loss of food stamps to report

to respective NAP offices for replacement.

NAP offices will begin accepting reports today until the following Friday, May 29.

"We would like to inform all current NAP households who have suffered a loss of food

stamp coupons or food they purchased with food stamp coupons was destroyed due to Typhoon Dolphin to visit to the NAP office and request for a replacement," NAP administrator Walter Macaranas said.

**See NAP on Page 4**

## NMC to graduate largest class ever

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Future businessmen, nurses, scientists, and teachers will be graduating as part of the Northern Marianas College's largest graduating class ever.

Tomorrow, the college will confer about 167 associate and bachelor degrees.

According to the college, this is the highest number of degrees awarded in the college's history in any one year.

"We are extremely proud

of our graduates," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart in a statement. "They have worked incredibly hard to earn their degrees, and we join their families and friends in expressing tremendous pride for this impor-

**See NMC on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### ASIA

Malaysia orders a sea search and rescue for stranded migrants.

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### WORLD

Islamic State extremists capture the ancient Syrian town of Palmyra.

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### LIFE & STYLE

David Letterman ends his 33-year career as a late-night television host.

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## Local

### Bill on retirees' pension to remain with the committee

A bill that proposes to allocate all of the annual payments from a casino license to retirees' pension payments will be shelved temporarily.

House Bill 19-21 was introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (Ind-Saipan). "The bill by Rep. Attao will be tabled in the meantime," Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said.

Sablan, who chairs the House Committee on Ways and Means where Attao's bill was referred to, said the committee decided to "leave the bill to the committee" and it will not be brought up at the House session today.

He said most of the committee members seem to have "a lot of issues" with Attao's bill.

The bill seeks to amend Public Law 18-56 or the CNMI's casino law. One observation is that the bill will effectively remove the fund allocation to the three senatorial districts coming from the casino license fees.

Attao earlier aired his concern about the payment of retirees' pensions from the casino license fee, saying the actual distribution of the fee as stated in P.L. 18-56 is not enough to make up for the 25 percent cut in the pension of all government retirees.

"The Commonwealth needs

approximately \$17 million to pay in full the 25 percent reduction that was included in the Settlement Fund. Additionally, the Commonwealth will not receive the license fee on the fifth year, which means that retirees will again lose the entire 25 percent of their pension," Attao explained.

He said H.B. 19-21 that he earlier introduced "replaces the fifth year with the 40th year of license payment, which will be a plus for the casino [since] GDP calculations and the dollar value in the future will increase and a plus for the retirees as their pensions will be a continuous payment from the license fee."

"I introduced HB 19-21 to provide for the actual intent of PL 18-56, which was to address the 25 percent reduction of CNMI government retirees," Attao said.

He also said the CNMI has "a tool in Public Law 18-56 which is being fine-tuned by House Bill 19-021 to direct the fees for the retirees right now so we can remove that problem from our table."

HB 19-21 intends to amend PL 18-56 "to dedicate the entire license fee collections for the payment of retirees' pension reduction." (Joel Pinaroc)

### Two cocktail competitions at the Taste of the Marianas tomorrow

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of 13 competitors will be battling it out to concoct the best cocktails tomorrow at the Taste of the Marianas in American Memorial Park starting at 7pm.

Hosted by the NMI Bartender's Association, six participants will join in the Battle of the Rookies Malibu Rum Challenge, while seven participants will join in on the Battle of the Champion Malibu Rum Challenge.

NMI's Bartender Association

chair Lito Espino said entries in both the Champion and Rookie rounds will be judged based on originality, taste, showmanship, neatness, and audience impact.

For the Champion round, the winner will get a trophy, a cell phone, \$250, and a gift. The second placer will get a trophy, \$100, and a gift, while the third gets a trophy, \$75, and a gift. Best in Showmanship are a trophy, \$75, and a gift. Best in Taste prizes are a trophy, \$25, and a gift. There will also be special awards for props and costume.

See COCKTAIL on Next Page

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## Jack's father, relatives recover cord at Obyan site

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Family and relatives yesterday sifted the soil in the jungle area near Obyan Beach where the remains of Traina Suda Jack were found and recovered pieces of bones and an electric cord that bolsters their belief that Jack may have been strangled.

Sintosi Suda said they found the black electric cord, measuring about two and a half feet, after sifting the soil on the ground where the remains of his daughter were found.

Suda and his relatives showed *Saipan Tribune* the cord, which they noted has a "shape of strangling."

Suda and his relatives point-

ed out that they are not certain about the cord—whether it was indeed used to kill Jack—but at the same time they will give it to the police, hoping it will help the investigation.

The family said police have theorized that Jack may probably have been strangled since Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola's autopsy did not reveal any type of identifiable trauma on the bones such as fracture, stab, or gunshot.

"This is a murder and not a suicide," said Suda, who led the sifting of soil at the scene since Wednesday.

Suda and his relatives said they decided to examine the scene themselves after police informed them that other pieces

of bones were missing.

When they started sifting the soil on Wednesday, they immediately found bones they believe are part of a spine and an arm. The family turned over the bones to police that day.

When *Saipan Tribune* left

the scene yesterday afternoon, the family recovered what they believe was a fingernail, a toe bone, hair, and other bones.

Suda and his children said they are also looking for Jack's shoes that she was wearing when she was last seen on Oct. 22, 2014. They described the shoes as a Nike high top, colored pink, black, white, and green.

Suda said they will continue today, Friday, hoping to find his daughter's shoes and other things that may help police solve the case.

Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero on Wednesday said they are not classifying the death of 18-year-old Jack as a homicide until the forensic mi-

croscopic analysis tell investigators otherwise.

Dr. Espinola positively identified the remains as that of Jack's, using a photograph that showed her dental features.

A cattle manager saw the remains in the jungle about 15 feet from the shoulder of the road across the Torres farm near Obyan Beach last May 11.

## COCKTAIL

From Page 2

For the Rookie round, the winner takes a trophy, a cell phone, \$150, and a gift. The second place winner will get a trophy, \$75, and a gift, while the third placer will get a trophy, \$50, and a gift. The fourth placer will receive a trophy, \$25, and a gift. Prizes for Best in Show and Best in Taste include a trophy, \$25 and a gift, while a trophy and gift will go to the special award for props and costume.

"All winners for both categories will receive a trophy and

medal [while] all participants will receive a certificate of participation," Espino said.

"We would like to thank our sponsors: Marianas Visitors Authority, T-Galleria/DFS, TITAN Co., R&J Wine Spirit, Club C, Armatech, United Filipino Organization, Chivas, IT&E, Coca Cola, Mariana Resort and Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Aqua Resort Club, Hard Rock Café, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Marianas Young Professionals or MY-Pros," he said.

Taste of Marianas starts at 6pm. The last day will be on May 30.



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## MITT

From Page 1

In March, a Hawaii court found illegal the National Marine Fisheries Service's approval of Navy sonar, deep-sea detonation, and other training in the Hawaii/Southern California range.

These findings were found to be "arbitrary and capricious" in a 66-page court ruling that sided with the Conservation Council for Hawaii and the National Resources Defense Council, the groups suing the Service.

"Searching the administrative record's reams of pages for some explanation as to why the Navy's activities were authorized by the [NMFS], this court feels like the sailor in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* who, trapped for days on a ship becalmed in the middle of the ocean, laments, 'Water, water every where, nor any drop to drink,'" wrote U.S. District court Judge Susan Oki Mollway.

In the Marianas, the court ruling sets precedent for challenges to the impending go-ahead for similar training in the Marianas, and the potential authorization of incidental take or harassment by the NMFS, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The Navy contends, though, that the "current ruling does not affect Navy training and testing activities outside of the Hawaii and Southern California study area" in a statement from Joint Region Marianas.

But CNMI officials have said the ruling helps set the "legal foundation" for the protection of marine mammals in the region.

Marc Fink, senior attorney for and part of the Center of Biological Diversity's Strategic Litigation Group, one of the groups leading the Hawaii case, agreed that the MITT is

similar to the EIS at issue in Hawaii "by failing to consider a true "no action" alternative."

"...And by failing to consider a broad enough range of alternatives," he said.

Similarly, the CNMI Joint Military Training DEIS for live-fire training on Pagan and Tinian also "fails to consider alternatives in other regions."

Fink was responding to questions on their future involvement in the Marianas and the kind of legal foundation the Hawaii case sets for people who wish to challenge the Navy's findings.

Fink went on to say the Center also believes the Navy has violated law by failing to consider the combined environmental impacts of these two MITT and CJMT proposals within the same EIS.

"Similar proposals in the same region at the same time must be considered together, in a single EIS," the attorney emphasized, noting also their concern about the environmental impacts of these proposals on marine mammals and endangered species, including coral, sea turtles, and the Tinian monarch on Tinian Island.

"For both proposals, we are waiting on anticipated biological opinions by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as any 'Letters of Authorization' by the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning impacts to marine mammals. We will be carefully reviewing these documents when they are released to the public."

"We are hopeful the Navy will realize that the environmental impacts of these proposed activities are too severe and should not move forward as currently proposed," the attorney said.

## Precedent

Fink's comments on the MITT yesterday appear to echo arguments made in the Hawaii

case, where environmental groups contend that NMFS has authorized takes through the Navy's perspective, not theirs.

NMFS is "cooperating agency"—like the Federal Aviation Administration—in approving of military plans.

In their 2013 comments, the Center said the Navy failed to analyze a proper no action alternative in consideration of expiring permits by USFW and NSFWS.

"Thus, a true no action alternative would take into account the impending expiration of these permits and authorizations" which would result in scaled back training and testing, the Center wrote, calling an assumption otherwise "arbitrary and capricious and violates NEPA."

To this, the Navy wrote in responses released this month that "no action" means "no change" from current activity. They were citing interpretation from the Council of Environmental Quality.

"Therefore, the 'no action' alternative is continuing with the present course of action until the action is changed..." the Navy said.

But in ruling on the same "no action" argument in the Hawaii case, Mollway found that NMFS could not assume the same take activities the Navy was proposing.

"NMFS was neglecting to consider what would be a true 'no action' alternative from NMFS's perspective," she wrote.

"The Navy and NMFS appear to have recognized that a 'no action' alternative from NMFS's perspective might well have been the scenario in which...NMFS denied the Navy's request for an incidental take authorization," Mollway writes.

## Consider mitigation

The Center also argues that the Navy failed to consider alternatives that significantly

reduce the predicted harm on marine environment in the Marianas.

Based on modeling estimates of impulsive and non-impulsive source effects for all training and testing activities, the Navy requests to be allowed to inadvertently harass over 81,000 whales and dolphins a year.

They also request to accidentally kill 15 Pygmy sperm whales and 41 dwarf sperm whales a year.

The Center argues that alternatives must include "appropriate mitigation measures" and because of this, the Navy must include or at least consider geographic restrictions from sensitive areas. These restrictions were not made in their draft EIS.

"By failing to include any consideration of alternatives that impose such restrictions...the Navy is failing to rigorously explore all reasonable alternatives," the Center wrote.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos himself proposed mitigation zones in his 2013 letter to the Navy.

The governor requested more baseline studies, better baseline study information, and marine mammal protection areas, and that certain training activities not be done around certain islands.

Inos' mitigation zones excluded sonar and explosives training and testing within certain distances from CNMI islands and West Mariana ridge.

But in their response this month, the Navy says they "cannot impose geographic limitations on training and testing activities based on bathymetric features."

The Navy called this an "impractical burden with regard to implementation" and "unacceptable impact to the effectiveness" of their training.

Mollway, though, dismissed similar reasons of impracticality, in the Hawaii case.

The kind of responses to "specific proposals in public

munity attend this special day. The graduation ceremony will start at 4:30pm on Saturday, May 23, 2015, at the MHS Gymnasium.

Those who are off island or who are not able to attend the ceremony personally can watch the graduation live online at: <http://www.marianas.edu/nmc livetv/>

Macanas.

Saipan households must visit the NAP office in As Lito; for Tinian, the Tinian DCCA office at the San Jose Gym; and for Rota households, the Rota DCCA office at the Rota Court House in Sinapalo. Offices are open from 7:30am to 4:30 pm.

For more information, contact the NAP Saipan office at 664-2800, the Tinian DCCA office (Marla Sablan) at 433-9330, or the Rota DCCA office (Donna Ogo) at 532-9351.

comments was general and cursory, and assumed with little analysis that no restriction at all could be accommodated," she wrote.

## Lawsuit

A letter of authorization for incidental take is pending with NMFS.

The authorization was given for the Hawaii and Southern California testing several months after the release of final impact studies.

The final studies for Mari-

anas study area will be published in the Federal Register tomorrow.

It's unclear right now if NMFS will adopt the Marianas findings with the Hawaii issue still in court. Request for comment from their regional office in Hawaii were not responded to as of press time.

It was gathered, though, that if NMFS does adopt the Navy's no action alternative, they are open to a lawsuit, and the same kind of lawsuit they lost in Hawaii.

posted for the whole of 2013.

## Imports and exports

The report indicated total revenue tonnage (in thousands) for the CNMI's imports and exports.

Import items included petroleum, oil, lubricants (collectively called P.O.L.), cement, garments, food items, construction materials, beverages and others (which includes vehicles, tobacco, clothing, heavy equipment, and all others).

For the fourth quarter of 2014, total revenue tonnage for imports reached 100,700 compared to 94,840 in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Third quarter figures also indicated an increase, with 91,170 in 2014 compared to 80,640 in the same quarter in 2013.

Leading import items are P.O.L, reaching 38,700 in the fourth quarter of 2014, which is a slight increase from the 38,480 P.O.L. in the same quarter in 2013.

"Others," which include vehicles, tobacco, clothing, heavy equipment, and all others, reached 38,480 in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the 26,760 reached in the same quarter in 2013.

Total exports for the fourth quarter of 2014 reached 2,876.40, compared with 1,754.46 in the same quarter in 2013.

However, total revenue tonnage in the third quarter (4,114.49) in 2013 is higher than the 2,275.73 total in the same quarter in 2014.

## Building permits

The number of building permits issued in 2014 totaled 113, which is lower than the 135 permits issued in 2013.

In terms of breakdown, there were 66 commercial, 39 residential, and 8 government permits issued in 2014.

However, there is a major upswing in the value of the permits, particularly in the second quarter of 2014, when the total value of commercial permits reached \$20.2 million, compared to the last two quarters of 2013 with just \$1.18 million in the fourth quarter and \$1.90 million in the third quarter.

The value of commercial permits in the third quarter of 2014 of \$3.82 million was also significantly higher than the \$1.18 million in the same period in 2013.

## ECONOMY

From Page 1

The GDP and CPI are considered the major indicators of a country's economy.

"Certain data were not readily available from sources, but we are confident such will be provided in the coming quarters," Rabauliman said.

## Banking activity

The report said banking activities for 2014 indicated a substantial increase from that of 2013.

Total deposits (checking, cash, and total savings) for 2014 reached \$632.96 million, compared with \$583.32 in 2013 indicating a substantial increase.

Total loans also increased to \$164.85 million in 2014 from \$151.09 million in 2013.

Total consumer loans in 2014 reached \$80.57 million, compared to \$64.02 million in 2013.

Real estate loans for 2014 reached \$42.88 million, which is a slight decrease from the \$46.6 million posted in 2013.

Commercial loans reached \$41.40 million in 2014, which is a slight increase from the \$41.23 million in 2013.

## Car sales

In terms of auto sales, a total of 1,465 new units were sold in 2014, compared to 1,041 units in 2013. Used cars sold in 2014 totaled 191 units, which is slightly lower than the 216 units sold in 2013.

On a quarterly basis, new car sales for the fourth quarter of 2014 reached 421 units, which is higher than the 330 new units sold in the same quarter of 2013.

## Business gross revenues

The report said fourth quarter figures for 2014 (calendar year) indicating business gross revenues are not available as of the moment.

For the first quarter of 2014, BGR hit \$394.63 million while the second quarter BGR reached \$407.72 million.

For the third quarter of 2014, BGR hit \$414.56 million, posting an increase from the \$373.45 million BGR posted in the same quarter.

The average of \$414.56 million in BGR for 2014 (excluding the fourth quarter) is higher than the \$381.99 million

## NMC

From Page 1

tant achievement."

During the graduation ceremony, the college will be handing out academic achievement awards and student leadership awards.

Keynote speaker for the event

is Shirley Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacific Insurance Underwriters. Sablan was also named as the 2014 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year.

In a joint statement, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres congratulated the NMC graduates.

the NAP offices. Only the adult head of household or their authorized representative may fill out the form. Forms will not be released and must be filled out at the NAP office.

Households are also required to bring their NAP I.D. card and a valid photo I.D. card.

"Households should be aware that they are signing the statement of declaration under penalty of perjury. After filling out the statement of declaration, their information will be veri-

fied by answering a set of questions from a NAP or DCCA official," added Macaranas.

The household's eligibility and information will then be reviewed and submitted for approval for a replacement.

"After the May 29, 2015 deadline, the NAP office will compile all requests eligible for replacement on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and submit a detailed listing to the regional office in San Francisco for approval to release the replacements," said

## NAP

From Page 1

All current NAP recipient households affected by Typhoon Dolphin may qualify for replacement coupons, in accordance with the NAP Manual of Operations.

A statement of declaration will be required from the adult head of household declaring their description of loss and its value. Forms are available at



# Judiciary might only get half of \$7.7M budget request

By **JOEL PINAROC**  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Judiciary might get only half of its proposed \$7.7 million budget for fiscal year 2016, but it is amenable to “meet halfway” with lawmakers for more allocation.

Members of the Judiciary were at the House chamber on Capital Hill on Thursday for a budget hearing.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro said he does not expect to get the full amount.

The Judiciary’s proposed budget of \$7.7 million is more than double Gov. Eloy S. Inos’

proposed allocation of about \$3 million.

“Yes, the budget proposal from the government is \$3 million lower than what we are asking,” Castro said, adding that the Judiciary would welcome a \$1.5-million addition to the government’s proposal.

“If our lawmakers can meet us halfway and give us an additional \$1.5 million, then we can keep our heads above water,” Castro said.

He earlier emphasized the need for more capital to be used for infrastructure repairs and



Castro

that,” referring to the possible additional budget.

“We do have a lot of things we want to do to improve the Judiciary system,” Naraja said,

hire more personnel. Castro said court-houses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota badly need repairs.

For Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, the Judiciary would just have “to work on

mentioning that one project the Judiciary will be looking at is a “problem solving court.”

He said these specialty courts will address specific social issues, including gambling, and a drug court.

“The drug court has been on our table for a long time,” Naraja said, adding that these specialty courts will be established to “anticipate” issues that may arise in the CNMI.

“Key to all these are the probation officers,” Naraja said,

adding that these personnel will be tasked to man the specialty courts. “We have the judges, all we need are the probation officers, then perhaps we can tap community workers.”

According to Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, lawmakers will look at where to find the additional \$1.5 million for the Judiciary.

## ‘Walk in Our Shoes’ today

The Division of Public Health is inviting the public to take part in its “Walk in Our Shoes” event, a three-mile walk from the Garapan Fishing Base that will have men joining to experience what it’s like to be pregnant.

The walk will take place from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and will have men participating in the walk with a 25-lb sack of rice on their bellies.

“Please join us and cheer on the men who willingly carry a 25-lb sack of rice,” said TaAnn T. Kabua of CHCC-DPH Maternal and Child Health Bureau. “The first five participants to cross the finish line will receive cash prizes. Other participants will be receiving gift certificates and other incentives.”

“May is also Karidat Services Month and we are hosting a food drive for the only women’s shelter in the CNMI. If you would like to donate non-perishable food items, please drop them off [at designated sites] at CHCC,” she said.

Other events lined up include

a Cooking Demo to feature three CNMI restaurants that serve healthy meals.

On Tuesday, May 26, CHCC will provide health services to incarcerated women at the Department of Corrections.

The ZUMBA Party scheduled for May 28 at Garapan Central Park will wrap up the month. The CHCC Employee Association will host dinner. Health screenings will begin at 4:30pm, followed by the ZUMBA exercise from 6pm to 7pm.

“The real celebration will be from 7pm to 10pm. A live band, through a generous donation from Toothworks, will be available for your entertainment,” Kabua said.

“On behalf of the CHCC CNMI Women’s Health Month Committee, Employee Health Association, and partners, I would like to thank those who have contributed to the various events in observance of the first ever CNMI Women’s Health Month,” she added. (Jayson Camacho)

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# DOL recovers more than \$10,000 in unpaid wages

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA  
frauline\_villanueva@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has recovered more than \$10,000 of unpaid wages from various employers in February this year.

Three separate labor complaints were filed with DOL that month.

The complaints triggered investigations, with both employees and employers interviewed by Labor's enforcement and compliance investigators.

"We sent investigators to know...if the employees are not paid properly or not paid at all," said Enforcement director Gil San Nicolas adding that for these three cases, it was found that the employees were not

being paid properly.

A total of 11 employees filed the complaints. All three establishments settled the cases for \$200, \$5,000 and \$5,033.58 respectively, amounting to \$10,233.58 of recovered wages in total.

"The employees received the payments already," Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said.

According to DOL, it is determined and committed in its enforcement efforts, giving confidence to employees who file a complaint that their complaints will be investigated. It added that their wages earned for hours worked—if found to be violated and withheld illegally—will be pursued for recovery.

The department also believes that these enforcement

efforts promote good business environment. Violators of em-

ployment laws to include non-payment of wages are held

accountable and that such violations will not be condoned as

a way of conducting business in the CNMI.

## Bail increased for ex-convict in home invasion case

An ex-convict who is facing charges for an attempted robbery and for brutally assaulting a woman asked the Superior Court to lower his \$50,000 cash bail but Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho instead increased it to \$100,000 cash.

In denying Fermin Manuel Castro's motion to modify the bail, Camacho cited the seriousness of the allegations—that, armed with a weapon, the suspect entered a house and caused several injuries to a woman in an attempt to rob her.

Camacho also underscored

the importance of deterrence for others, considering that human remains were recently found near Obyan Beach, as well as recent cases of home invasions, missing persons, and unsolved murder cases.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for the 27-year-old Castro, had proposed a third-party custodian and posting 10 percent of the \$50,000 bail or for \$5,000 cash.

Nesbit said the third-party custodian is Castro's father, who indicated at a hearing on April 24 that his son listens to

him and will appear in court and follow court rules.

Nesbit said Castro has very strong ties to the community and has two children.

Nesbit said Castro cannot be considered a flight risk due to his very limited financial resources.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, opposed, saying that Castro presents a substantial and continuing danger to the community.

In the government's opposition, Hinds said that Castro's release to a third-party custodian would negate any deterrent effect for others, considering his egregious actions.

For the protection of the victim and others in the community and in the interest of justice, the court should deny Castro's application for bail modification and require him to post a cash bond for any release, Hinds said.

"Robberies and burglaries are on the rise in the Commonwealth and should be deterred," he said.

Hinds said Castro's character and mental condition should be in question at this time.

Castro pleaded guilty in November 2013 for choking his then-pregnant girlfriend and he was subsequently sentenced to 30 days in prison.

Now, Hinds said, Castro is charged with another crime of violence in which he attempted to get money from a woman at knifepoint.

"The defendant's troubling behavior reveals the defen-

dant's character as callous and that he has no respect for the law," Hinds said.

The prosecutor said these types of home invasions are becoming more frequent in the community.

The facts in this case, Hinds said, stand out because of the injuries sustained by the victim when Castro punched her in the face while attempting to get money.

"Not only is the victim's safety and wellbeing at risk if this defendant is released, but other people in the community will also be placed at risk," Hinds said.

The victim sustained several injuries when Castro allegedly broke into her apartment unit in southern Garapan, threatened to rape her and punched and slashed her body with a knife during an attempted robbery last April 14.

At a preliminary hearing last month, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause to charge Castro with attempted robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Castro was arrested after the victim identified him as a former neighbor.

The victim sustained a black eye, a swollen left eye, swellings in different parts of her head, scrape marks and cuts on her right shoulder and elbow.

Citing Castro's criminal history, Wiseman said the court considers Castro "a danger to the community and a menace to society." (Ferdie de la Torre)

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## Probable cause found to charge two in 'ice' cases

The Superior Court has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against former Department of Corrections officer Thomas C. Camacho and another man, who stand accused of smoking methamphetamine or "ice" inside a bar and trafficking "ice" respectively.

In a preliminary hearing on Tuesday afternoon, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to charge

Thomas Camacho with illegal possession of a controlled substance and disturbing the peace.

In separate preliminary hearing, Judge Camacho found probable cause to charge Zhi Peng Huang, also known as Dandan and Boss, with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Thomas Camacho and Huang

were ordered to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be on June 1 at 9am.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas called to the witness stand police detective Rudolph Hermosilla Jr. in the case against Camacho and police detective Andrew Taimanao in the case against Huang.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit appeared as counsel for both Camacho and Huang.

Thomas Camacho, 55, was apprehended last May 11 for allegedly smoking "ice" and harassing customers and workers at the Naked Fish Bar and Restaurant in Susupe.

When confronted by a police officer, Thomas Camacho called the bar employees "terrorists" and showed off an identification card, saying he is with the CIA.

Last month, Thomas Camacho was also arrested for allegedly sexually harassing the wife of former representative Juan Reyes at a restaurant in Chalan Piao.

Last week, members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Huang and seven others for allegedly selling "ice" on Saipan.

Police detective Taimanao stated in his report that a cooperating source told him and police detective Catherine Pangelinan

last March 28 that Huang was in possession of about 10 grams of "ice" and that he sells "ice" from his apartment unit in Dandan.

Taimanao said during a sting operation on April 2, their co-operating source managed to purchase \$150 worth of .8 gross grams of "ice" from Huang at his apartment in Dandan and \$200 more worth of 1.4 grams of "ice" last April 6 in the parking lot of Han Nam Supermarket in Koblerville. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Torres, department heads meet to prepare for 2015 LibDay festivities

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA  
frauleine\_villanueva@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The government has begun preparing for the 2015 Liberation Day festivities, with Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres calling together the major permitting agencies yesterday to assist Saipan Mayor David Apatang with the preparations.

The agencies in attendance were the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Lands, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Qualities, Zoning Board Office, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Saipan Mayor's Office earlier signed up for a four-year term Hon Kong-based public relations firm Skywalker Communications Group to work on the branding, publicity, event planning, and event coordina-

tion. The memorandum of understanding was signed in April.

"The promotion and organization for this event is coming at no cost to the central government," Apatang said.

"Skywalker Communications Group has seen the marketable potential of our islands and asked my office to provide support, through their expertise and funding, to make this event a big success," he added.

Torres wanted to ensure that the Mayor's Office and the PR firm were aware of all the permitting requirements they need to obtain for the Liberation Day Festival.

The CNMI traditionally celebrates its Liberation Day on the 4th of July, coinciding with the U.S. Independence Day. Last year's festivities included parade floats, the crowning of Liberation Day Queen, and staging of various entertainers

and booths.

"The administration places its full support behind Mayor Apatang and his team. I will be working closely with the mayor and our permitting agencies to ensure that this event will be fun, safe, and enjoyable. This is definitely something everyone should look forward to," Torres said. The Liberation Day Festival this year will begin on June 27 and continue until the first week of August.

Skywalker Communications is planning for a large opening and closing ceremonies, along with the time-honored parade and fireworks show.

"After our meetings with the mayor and Skywalker Communications Group, I am personally very excited for this year's Liberation Day festivities. This is going to be a bigger event than we have seen in the past years," said Torres.

## Escaped prisoner in Guam apprehended

Escaped detainee Meisy Aliwis was apprehended by joint team of law enforcement officers on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at about 7:10pm on Emma Street in the village of Barrigada, Guam.

According to a Guam Department of Corrections statement yesterday, the ongoing internal investigation will validate any and all information that was received with regards to the man-

ner in which Aliwis was able to leave the Department of Corrections facility undetected for any amount of time.

"Should the investigation reveal any improprieties, professional misconduct or criminal conduct, those involved will be dealt with accordingly and held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," the statement says.

"We continue to ask the pub-

lic to report any information they may have in reference to Mr. Meisy Aliwis' escape to Lt. Jeffrey Limo at the Department of Corrections at 735-5174," the statement adds.

Aliwis' arrest was made by personnel of the Department of Corrections, the Guam Police Department, the Judiciary of Guam marshals, and the U.S. Marshals Service. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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## Man arrested for alleged possession of 'ice'

Police arrested a 35-year-old man who was allegedly found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice" in his car in Chalan Kanoa on Tuesday.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on Ignacio Deleon Guerrero Demapan Jr., who is charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Demapan. Assistant attorneys general Emily Cohen and Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on May 26 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Rudolfo

Saures Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that police officer David Hosono was doing a routine check on poker arcades when he saw a white tinted Toyota Prius with license plate ACV 853 parked on the road near Viva Poker along Petro Yobbo Avenue in Chalan Kanoa late Monday afternoon. Hosono saw the car suddenly drive away and turn right into a residence without signaling.

Hosono asked a young male, who was standing in front of the house, if he knows the owner of the white car that had just parked at his residence. The boy replied he does not know the car and allowed the officer to check the car.

Hosono approached the driver's side window and knocked on it. The driver, later identified as Demapan, rolled down the window. While talking with Demapan, Hosono allegedly saw a small ziplock bag containing a white crystalline substance inside the open compartment above the passenger seat.

Demapan told the officer that he was not carrying his driver's license or identification card and that he was at that residence to check on his friend.

When the officer asked him who owns the ziplock bag containing the crystalline substance, Demapan replied that maybe it's Joshua Diaz's because the latter was with him and had turned

himself in to the police.

Diaz surrendered to police on Tuesday morning to face charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Hosono also allegedly saw another ziplock bag containing white crystalline substance hidden behind a pack of cigarettes placed in the open compartment area and another ziplock bag with crystalline substance placed in a soda can in the center console.

Hosono allegedly tested the substance and found it presumptive positive for "ice."

The officer later released the car to Demapan's parents.

The mother, who works at the

Office of the Attorney General, told the officer that they have been talking to their son about his use of illegal drugs but he would not listen to their advice.

At 8:17pm on Tuesday, Demapan was taken to the Department of Corrections, where he was booked and detained. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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The contest runs up until 12pm on May 25, 2015, the deadline by which an interested contestant or applicant must submit a one-page essay justifying *why he/she is interested and what he/she expects from participating in the "Integrated Resort Fact Finding Contest."* Selected winners will be notified and will travel abroad immediately after they are notified. Criteria for selection are:

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Bang on Milk

**W**e get the disclaimer up front: this is not about the dairy product, or mama's fluid after a child's birth, nor have misspelled a word in the title to ban the dispensing of the same!

It involves Harvey Milk who would have been 80 years old today, an assassinated SF supervisor along with Mayor George Mascone, done in by another supervisor, Dan White. Milk was a cutting edge symbol of an emerging public acknowledgment of same-sex unions and the legalization of the same.

Milk and Mascone were 48 and 49 years old respectively while White was a decade and a half younger. In an alleged fit of anger, White shot Mascone and Milk, charged but acquitted on first-degree murder but found guilty of manslaughter in what is now known as the "Twinkie defense" since diet-conscious Dan consumed Twinkies the night before. After five years in jail White was paroled, only to commit suicide on carbon monoxide before he turned 40.

Actor Sean Penn as Harvey portrayed the circumstances of that assassination in a Gus Van Sant 2008 biofilm *Milk*, critically acclaimed in the Academy Awards.

Not too long ago, MHS junior Lee Ann Jastillana dramatically opened her speech for the AG's Cup with an extended arm and a pointed finger at her audience, mimicking the sounds of five *bangs*. That's the number of shots it took to kill Harvey Milk, with the fifth *bang* directly and fatally to the head. Lee Ann then proceeded to explicate her support of same-sex union to be legally recognized in the CNMI. Of eight speakers for the AG's Cup, six were for and two were against legalizing same-sex union.

Jastillana ended her drama with naming five bangs and the invitation to reset one's aim: *bang* - on social injustice, *bang* - on inequality, *bang* - on unequal distribution of human rights, *bang* - on inequality of freedom, and *bang* - on the CNMI's ban on same-sex marriage!

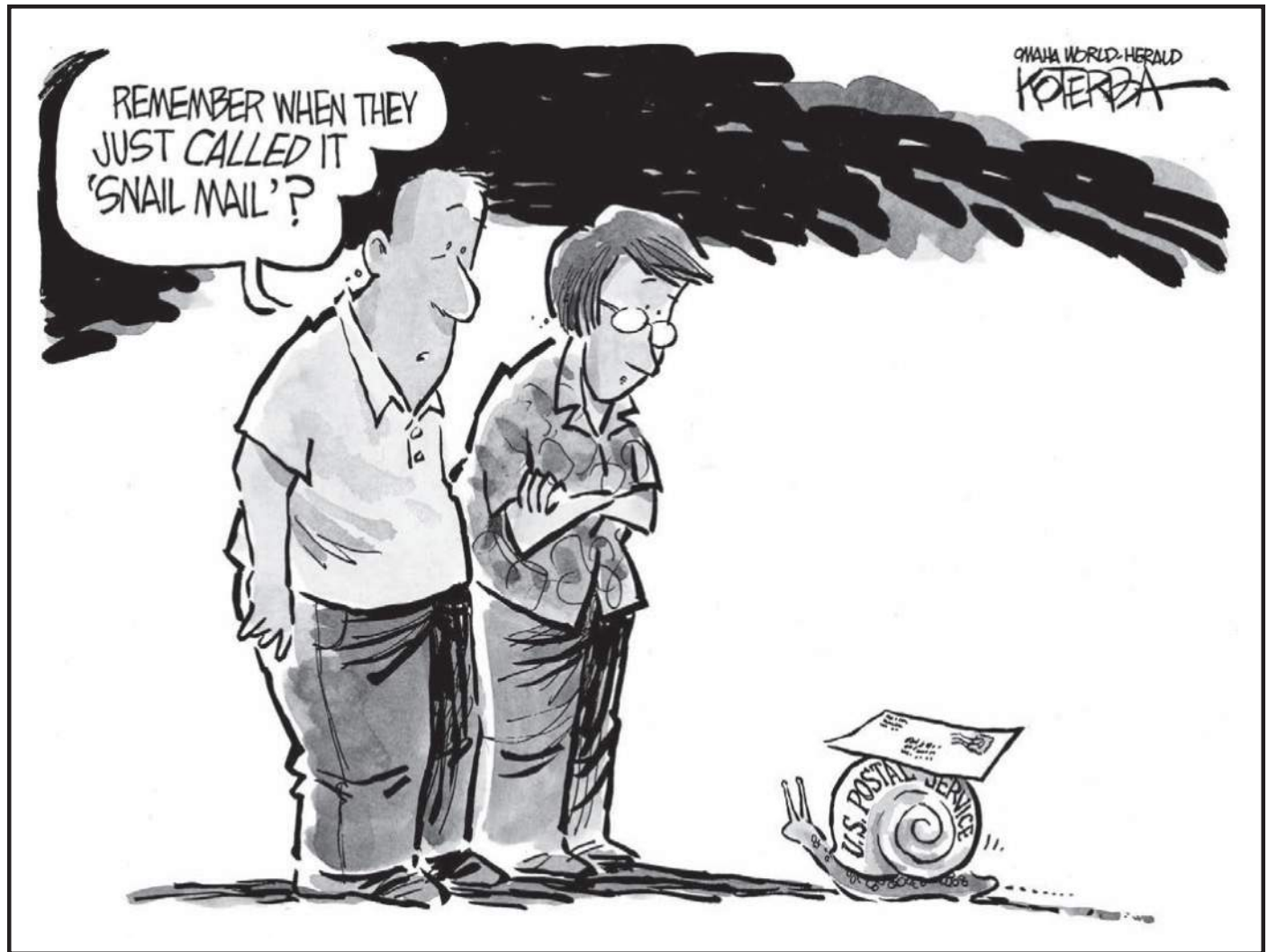
Here's the count among states in the U.S.: 37 states allow same-sex marriage, 13 have existing bans, though eight have been declared unconstitutional and are currently under judicial appeal. The five holdouts are Georgia, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Tennessee. If we knew how to read trends, and Justice Ruth Ginsburg excoriating one of the defense lawyers arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court that is currently hearing same-sex marriage case an indication, the SC will decide in favor of same-sex unions.

The District of Columbia voted for same-sex marriage in 2010, and Guam is the first among the U.S. territories to recognize the same. The CNMI might follow, if the AG Cup's sentiment is any indication. Though conservative due to the influences of evangelical missionaries in the territories, it is most unlikely that the remaining areas will not hold out any longer.

Obviously, we count more than heads. The principle of equality before the law is a compelling right and since civil rights legislation in place declares discriminatory acts on the basis of sex, gender, race and religion as illegal, the legality of same-sex unions is simply a matter of time.

*Bang!* Thanks, Lee Ann. Rest easy, Harvey!

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## Macedonia, the latest US-Russia battlefield

**M**acedonia is a poor, landlocked Balkan country of about 2 million. To the Kremlin, it's also the newest front in an ideological battle, with the U.S. fomenting regime change to counter Russia's influence. As is often the case, that view is correct to the extent that Russian interests are aligned with those of a corrupt authoritarian ruler.

Here's what Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had to say last week:

"I cannot judge for sure, but it so happens objectively that these events in Macedonia are unfolding against the background of the Macedonian government's refusal to join sanctions against Russia and an active support from Skopje for the plans to build the Turkish Stream pipeline, to which many in Brussels and across the Atlantic are opposed. We cannot get rid of this feeling that there's some sort of a connection."

The origins of this conjecture, and Lavrov's sarcasm, are clear. The Kremlin couldn't help being suspicious about the timing of Macedonia's political crisis. In December, President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia was scrapping its South Stream pipeline project, designed to bypass Ukraine and enter the European Union via Bulgaria. The EU had put intense pressure on Bulgaria to undermine the project. The Bulgarian government that supported the project—and made possible a sweetheart deal with one of Putin's billionaire friends to lay the pipeline—was replaced in a snap election, and Russia lost the entry point.

Undeterred, Putin made a deal with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to divert the future pipeline to Turkey, hoping to extend it into the Balkans. Serbia, a candidate for EU membership, is going through some soul-searching about the project; to get to Serbia without crossing Bulgaria, the pipeline would need to traverse both Greece (which Russia is trying to court with aid offers) and Macedonia. The U.S. has been lobbying Greece to go with a competing pipeline project that would transport gas from Azerbaijan rather than Russia.

As for Macedonia, two months after the Turkish Stream plans were broached, the opposition leader Zoran Zaev started publishing secret recordings of officials' conversations. Zaev said the recordings, made by Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski's government as part of a sweeping surveillance operation, were handed to him by a whistleblower. The frank, and sometimes coarse, conversations cover a lot of ground, from violence against political opponents and electoral fraud to the purchase of a Mercedes for Gruevski using the Interior Ministry as cover (the interior minister, who has since resigned, is heard discussing the massage function of the car's rear seats with the chief of intelligence, who has also quit in disgrace).

Macedonians were not amused, and even the country's Albanian minority, which had never made common cause with the

By **LEONID BERSHIDSKY**

Bloomberg News

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Macedonian opposition, joined huge rallies in the capital, Skopje. Last weekend, tens of thousands of protesters turned out in the town center, which Gruevski recently decorated with kitschy neoclassical buildings and statues at a cost the tiny nation could ill afford. On Monday, the prime minister, who has been running Macedonia for almost 10 years, staged his own counter-rally. He called the intercepts "a great lesson" and denounced Zaev as a foreign puppet with a "script writer," and called on supporters to "imagine a prime minister brought to power by foreign services."

To Team Putin, this is familiar ground: Events are following the same course as in Ukraine in 2013 and 2014, when Viktor Yanukovich's corrupt regime was ousted by a popular uprising. The Kremlin believes the U.S. fomented similar revolutions in Georgia in 2003, in Ukraine in 2005 and in Moldova in 2009 and made several less successful attempts to bring down pro-Moscow regimes in former Soviet countries. Waves of regime change such as the Arab Spring also fall under Putin's definition of U.S.-engineered revolutions. The word he uses to describe them is, curiously, the same as Gruevski's description of the incriminating recordings: "a lesson" for Russia on what to avoid.

Many ordinary Russians also believe in the conspiracy theory because there is a superficial kind of truth to it. The U.S. and its EU allies do want to limit Russia's influence, all the more so after Russia's annexation of Crimea. They also worry about Putin's tendency to weaponize natural gas supplies, raising prices for countries that take a stand against him and lowering them for allies. The containment strategy and the efforts to damp Russia's energy dominance are transparent, and so is Western support for popular movements that seek to undermine Putin-friendly authoritarian leaders.

The problem with the theory, however, is that when a nation overthrows its leader as Ukrainians did last year, it's usually because it's fed up with conspicuous corruption, rigged elections and restrictions on media freedom. In Europe especially, the example of neighboring nations with relatively well-functioning political systems and a higher degree of fairness and democratic engage-

See **MACEDONIA** on Page 14



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## What would you do?

If you can't judge a book by its cover, I don't know how much mileage you'll get out of a mere title. But we'll do a quick drive-by anyway. Here's a title I spotted in a bookstore: "What Would You Do If You Knew You Could Not Fail?"

I can't tell you anything about the contents since I just glanced at the cover as I hurried by. So the book, it stayed on the shelf. But the title, it leapt into my head.

It's still there. It is, after all, a great question.

The problem with great questions is that they demand great answers. Well, I'm all out of those, for the simple reason that I've never had any of them to begin with. So let's make do with some mediocre answers tossed around at random.

I'll start here: Most of the people I've known who accomplished impressive things didn't start out comfortable enough to have inactivity as an option.

For them, the biggest failure would have been the failure to try something. So, since they had to go for something, they went for something big.

A hallmark of our gilded age, by contrast, is sinking into so much comfort that there's never a need to take a big leap, or even a medium one. After all (and just to inflict yet another analogy on you) if we can afford a lifetime ticket as spectators it's sure a lot easier than getting bruised out on the playing field.

But after the sun sets on that gig, and it does set on all of us, I think the players have a lot more to look back on than the watchers do.

Of course, there's always a difference between taking reasonable risks on one hand and being impulsive and reckless on the other. That's one of those invisible disclaimers that is better heeded in ad-

vance than in arrears. Not everybody gets that memo, though, which is why the Grim Reaper likes working on commission.

"What would you do if knew you could not fail?" is a more effective way of asking, "What do you really want out of life?" With the first question, we can focus on what we'd really like, instead of what we think we can settle for. That's a big difference.

After all, it's pretty common for people to sell themselves short. And it's even more common for a swirling galaxy of finger-waggers and naysayers to convince you that you can't do, or shouldn't do, what you really want to do.

On that latter note, I'm glad that I never listed to any of the finger-waggers when I was a kid. If I had listened, I would never have gotten anything done. My band of pals was the same way. We would never eat poison, so why would we listen to it? What you let into your mind is just as important as what you let into your body.

So, while my pals and I may not have had much, if any, sense, even we could discern what the sages of the East wrote 2,500 years ago: "Knowers don't talk. Talkers don't know."

I'm glad that we reckoned that one early, since things move so fast that there's no time to waste.

Stepping back to the book angle, here's some information from Amazon.com: "What Would You Do If You Knew You Could Not Fail?" was written by Nina Lesowitz and Mary Beth Sammons, and in paperback the list price is \$15.95. Though I didn't have time to look through the book, if you do take a look at it and want to share your observations, feel free to pass them along to me.

In the meantime, I'm going to get old school here and mention a book that is one of my longstanding favorites in this realm. Come to

gineers in the book *Atlas Shrugged*. The train ran out of fuel in the middle of a long and deep tunnel. The engineers ordered trainloads of coal to fire it up. When the coal train arrived it ran straight into the waiting train. It exploded like an A-bomb that crumbled the tunnel. Everybody was killed!

Now, the "willful rejection of reason by those who think the rules of reality don't apply to them can cause tragedy for everyone. Do we really believe that we can get ourselves out of an economic crisis caused by too much debt by creating more debt? Do we believe the answer to stimulating real economic growth is piles of debts? Are not these incidents of persistent evasions of reality stem from the blurred prism of those at the helm?"

### Victims: We the people...

The geniuses would be dealing with projected revenue for fiscal year 2016 of some \$180 million. Subtract about 60 percent for government salaries for a balance of about \$80 million. This should be earmarked and limited to essential departments: \$42 million, PSS;

### By DAVID WEIL

U.S. Department of Labor Blog



Dr. David Weil is the administrator of the department's Wage and Hour Division.

urdays, Sundays, holidays or late night shifts. And under federal law, overtime is not due after eight hours in a day —only after 40 hours in a workweek. There is no limit on the number of hours employees ages 16 and older may work in any workweek. Some states provide greater protections.

### How will the overtime rules be updated?

Unless specifically exempt, workers protected by the FLSA must receive overtime pay. The President asked Secretary Perez to update the "white-collar exemptions" that exclude certain professional, executive and administrative employees from having to be paid overtime. To be exempt from overtime under the "white-collar" exemption, a worker must be paid a guaranteed salary of at least \$455 per week, and perform certain job duties.

This exemption was originally intended for well-compensated white-collar employees: doctors, lawyers, CEOs — you get the idea. But as a result of changes in the workplace over many decades, and specifically because the rules have not been updated in 10 years, workers earning as little as \$23,660 per year can be

See REVISIONS on Page 14

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.  
His column runs every Friday.



think of it, it's one of my favorites, period. This is "Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude" by Napoleon Hill (a writer) and W. Clement Stone (a business magnate). I'm sure that many editions have been issued, and re-issued, over the decades, so instead of chasing that trail I'll just point to it. To the extent I've ever managed to do anything right, this book was largely the reason.

The book is within a few years' time of hitting the 60-year-old mark, and, though it might seem a bit dowdy by today's standards, it still enjoys quite a following.

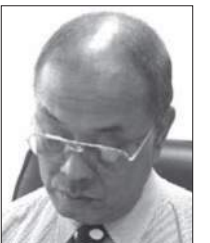
A positive mental attitude means working to make yourself better, not trying to pull the other guy down. It is, in other words, the opposite of the crab-bucket outlook, which is right up there with coconuts and typhoons as things that don't require explanation on Saipan.

As for what I would do, well, I've settled on having a cheeseburger today. I know I can't fail at that. Toss in some fries and there's no better way to end a Friday, and it's not a bad way to wrap up a column, either.

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



\$40 million, CHC; \$30 million, settlement fund; \$31 million, CUC; DPS and others. Real juggling is a must to walk a woefully tight fiscal rope. No room for specious arguments here.

But let's challenge the 29 legislators to begin spending cuts with itself by downsizing a useless bicameral to a unicameral system of eight members. You could save taxpayers nearly \$4 million by doing the right thing today! Don't rely on suspect tourism dollars, what with plans to cut flights out of Tokyo this winter. Economic stagnancy and dystopia still rule the entire economic landscape. What are your plans on the long awaited economic recovery?

Would raising taxes be the appropriate option at this point in time? Weren't salaries recently assaulted by another spike in health premiums and deductibles? How about reduction in force of government employees? Do we really need all 3,000-plus public sector employees? Isn't this sheer excess baggage forced against the tired taxpayers?

Some 1,100 employees are under contracts just to avoid the merit system that pays less. So what good is meritocracy in this case? Isn't the system designed to ensure real qualifications?

It's time that you show leadership. Stop being spectators as though you're victims too. "We the people" are your victims!

### Meth capital of NMI

It's frightening to learn how methamphetamine or "ice" has descended and infested the peaceful island community of Tinian. It's even more frightening to hear that the destructive drug is manufactured there then sold locally and throughout the NMI.

Cattle rustling have returned, including theft of other livestock. Farmers who usually head home after sunset now stay back to guard their farm-raised animals. It has come down to people stealing from each other, the stolen items sold to meet the new habit.

Meth smoke is very destructive, its use paralyzing families who are into it. Young minds would simply flush their future down the drain. How sad if strong families disintegrate because of this drug. I've seen once very productive families destroyed and reduced to some form of federal assistance. Sad.

I know this is a headache for the mayor, DPS, and the DEA. But a concerted effort to cleanse the island of manufacturers and peddlers is the path to resetting the community's peaceful existence. The growing social malignancy must be stopped dead on its track. It's time to move in and save the island and its people.

## Revisions loom for overtime rules

To help build real, lasting economic security for more hardworking Americans, President Obama has directed Secretary of Labor Tom Perez to update the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime pay protections and to simplify the rules about overtime for employers and workers alike. We've been hard at work developing a proposal that will do these things, and in the process, a lot of people have had questions about the existing law and how we will update it. Here is what you should know:

### What is overtime?

Most workers covered by the FLSA must be paid 1½ times their regular pay for any hours they work beyond 40 per week. Generally, employers are prohibited from working people more than 40 hours per week without paying them properly for those extra hours. In addition to this basic floor of protection provided by federal law, some states and employers provide additional protections.

### What is the purpose of overtime?

For 77 years, the FLSA has ensured "the most minimum standard of living necessary for the health, efficiency and general well-being of workers." One of the original goals of the FLSA was the basic premise that workers should be paid fairly for their work. The law limits the number of hours most employees can work without additional compensation.

### What does not qualify for overtime?

The federal law does not require overtime pay for work on Sat-



## CNMI PERSPECTIVES

DEIS inconsistencies:  
Tinian and Pagan

By RICK PEREZ, JUANITA MENDIOLA  
and CINTA KAIPAT  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights recognizes the indigenous people's rights to protect, preserve, and enhance their cultural, economic and environmental values. In recognizing these values, no state is allowed to deny such pursuits and is charged with the responsibility to facilitate their survival pivotal to the survival and unique contributions to humanity.

Notwithstanding the Covenant between the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States, we do not support the proposed military activities on Tinian and Pagan as outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement materials produced by the Navy Department. There are inconsistencies in the material that, when translated, constitute irreversible and disproportionate impacts to both Pagan and Tinian that will lead to Chamorro and Refaluwasch (Carolinian) economic, cultural, and environmental injury, which will subsequently result in human misery not only for the indigenous islanders, but also for the many other peoples who call the Marianas home. This is unreasonable and unacceptable because Chamorro and Refaluwasch lives—and all other lives—matter and contradicts the objective of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights.

Here are three examples to demonstrate our points:

**Example 1: Terms and statements are ambiguous, incomplete or difficult to fully understand, thus undermining the intent of the resolution cited above.** Section A-1 of the 2015 DEIS states that “The no-action alternative on Tinian” would allow for currently authorized training to continue in addition to the previously approved development and use of four live-fire ranges on the island and the “no-action alternative on Pagan” would allow for the continuation of no-live-fire military training exercises.

This is inconsistent and nothing more than military “double speak” because what is coined as “no action” actually means an intent to act. The “no-action” alternative describes “action” that the military is claiming to have already been authorized. We are afraid that choosing the “no-action” alternative may be misconstrued as implicit acceptance of intended actions that we have no specific knowledge of authorizing. There is no citation or supporting documents in this DEIS to support this alleged approval. The “no-action” alternative should be an implicit statement that we are saying “no” to alternatives I, II, and III and does not incorporate or constitute an acceptance, implied or otherwise, or authorization of any activities. Therefore, this needs to be further discussed and clarified so that it is better understood by the people of the Marianas.

**Example 2: Data omissions.** Section A-1 of the 2015 DEIS states that “The resources evaluated include geology and soils, water resources, air quality, noise, airspace, land and submerged-land use, recreation, terrestrial biology, marine biology, cultural resources, visual resources, transportation, utilities, socioeconomic and environmental justice, hazardous materials and waste, and public health and safety.”

What data base sets were used for the evaluations of the above-listed components, especially those tied to socioeconomic and environmental justice? What are the time and date ranges of these data sets? What specific methodologies were used to collect the data and make the subsequent determinations offered for public consumption? Without reliable and verifiable proof, the information presented is

questionable at best.

Also, future lost-economic opportunities for islanders are not discussed in the DEIS and are ignored. The air space that the military wants exclusive control of, for example, appears to hamper plans for Tinian to develop economically. We understand that the military collected limited flight data from small-plane operations that fly between Tinian, Saipan, Rota and Guam. Hence, more information needs to be provided on methods and uses of data collection and interpretation because we understand these proposals to be restrictive, ambiguous, and unilaterally determined.

Furthermore, the cultural sites go beyond what archaeologists have surveyed. Archaeological surveys are a Western means of defining a cultural site and as such, disregard and omit the indigenous considerations of what a cultural site entails. Our argument, to this day, is that each and every island within the Marianas chain and the surrounding waters have been, still are, and will continue to be culturally significant to the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people. Our cultural sites go beyond what Western archaeology can document, but these “intangible parameters” that we hold so dearly cannot be systematically recorded and therefore become nondescript and rendered negligible.

Every inch of each island and the surrounding waters is culturally significant. Just because archaeological features are absent from a spot on any given island does not mean that it is not a cultural site and therefore culturally insignificant. One would see that archaeology today, inclusive of more recent years, is doing an about-face wherein “intangible cultural elements” are concerned. It is realizing that what cultural groups the world over have known to be true for millennia, weighs heavily in the piecing together of the global picture of humanity's history, much of which was never written down, but yet is revealed through these “intangible cultural elements.” Two examples would be an Australian Aborigine singing his/her passage through country and a Chamorro/Refaluwasch navigator equally chanting his/her voyage to his/her/their island destination.

**Example 3. National Environmental Protection Act process and control.** It is unreasonable for anyone to assume that within three or four months from now, the people of the Marianas will be able to digest the over 1,300 pages of technical content and then convey their concerns and questions to the military. It is unreasonable to restrict public input to 180 seconds per person and to prevent unused time allotments from being transferred to other speakers. It is unreasonable to hold public hearings at venues that were way too small to accommodate all the people who came to hear what was being presented and opined. It is unreasonable that this tightly controlled and monitored process can be construed as representing authentic dialogue and conversation on a topic that threatens to permanently damage and disproportionately destroy amounts of our tiny island landmass.

**Concluding thoughts:** We interpret that three or four months to review the material, along with language restraints and the technical and overly descriptive nature of this 1,300-page DEIS document, makes it impossible for villagers to properly read, digest, discuss, and understand what is being proposed in ways that produce comfort and consent from villagers. Thus, we do not approve nor consent to any in-

## CNMI PERSPECTIVES

Don't be misled by military's  
use of the word ‘training’

By DANIEL O. QUITUGUA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

An expression of sympathy to Mr. David M. Sablan Sr., whom I respect, on his passionate call for us to allow the military to occupy, use, and dispose the pristine beauty of the island of Pagan. I completely understand Mr. Sablan's position on the matter because he was intimately affected by what he was exposed to during his younger years, right after the end of World War II. The atrocities of war are a life-changing experience and Mr. Sablan's post-war growing up days seemed profoundly affected. He may not be a casualty of such atrocity but certainly it has impacted him in ways that influenced his post-war views. So I understand where he is coming from and no one can take that history away from him.

However, if we allow the military to proceed with its intent to occupy, use, and dispose the island of Pagan, our grandchildren and future Northern Marianas descent generations will condemn us forever. In the words of Wendell Barry, the most influential environmental activist, he said, “We have no right to destroy any other life form,” “the military has the capability to destroy other forms of life,” and therefore “we have the responsibility to see that they are not destroyed, but instead protected for generations to come.” One of the most thoughtful and poignant quotations about the environment and cultural land was expressed by Indian chief Seattle when he said, “We have not inherited the Earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children.”

Seemingly so, our collective allegiance is to protect the future interests of the coming generations, the rightful heirs of our lands. Not acceding to military land use request does not necessarily means that we are insensitive and anti-military, as subliminally implied by Mr. Sablan's letter. On the contrary, the CNMI has lost sons and daughters fighting alongside brave men and women in the armed forces through different theaters. Our refusal to consent to the military's land use plan is culturally fundamental and profoundly communal. Chamorros' and Carolinians' relationship with their land is intrinsically different in comparison with Westerners. In Western society people live off their land and use it as an economic means. Conversely, in Chamorro and Carolinian customs we live on the land and share it with family members and pass it on to our children.

Mr. Sablan's empathy and intense emotion toward the military should understand that military training, especially bombing activities, is not synonymous with environmental protection and cultural preservation. Military training and bombing exercises involve simulations of hostility and destructions as

if they are at a war zone. The training the military is talking about is not administrative training as we know it, but rather use of artilleries intended to cause visible destructive effects on land. The pristine environment and emerald beauty of Pagan Island is irreplaceable and literally uncompensable. However, once we allow the military access to the island, Pagan will never be the same. With all the artilleries and military war preparation activities going on at any given day, Pagan Island's flora and fauna will be destroyed and decimated forever, not to mention highly toxic contaminants exposed to the island.

Furthermore, who is to say that the military is restricted only to just training and bombing, with all the large military weapons designed to fire munitions far beyond the range of infantries, and they will be using the most lethal form of land-based armament available today. This will be the 21st century military training and advance war preparation undertaking that they are planning to conduct on Pagan. During these training exercises no one (independent verifier) will be allowed on the ground to monitor the adverse impact caused to the island. The military is infamous for all kinds of covert operations; Pagan Island may be in that category too.

Our neighboring island of Guam is a model of unfettered military control and the people of Guam have absolutely zero restraining power. Acquiescing to the military's request for the use of Pagan Island for their training and bombing activities will prevent indefinitely any resettlement of our local people back to Pagan. Once bombing activities commence, any hope of cohabitation is absolutely impossible. Anyone who thinks that cohabitation is possible on Pagan during live bombing exercise is just plain ignorant.

Let us not be misled by the usage of the word “training” that military brasses and their surrogates are presenting in their plan. In the military world training connotes preparation for war and other actual simulations of war readiness. War readiness and firing precisions demand that, when soldiers fire their weapons, they must hit and destroy the intended target and Pagan Island is the military's intended target. Can you imagine what will happen to our island of Pagan when it explodes? Of course the military will classify the island as a restricted place and condemn it, just as they have done so in hundred other places they occupy, including our own backyard, the Tinian North Field Atom Bomb Pits, where two atomic bombs name Little Boy and Fat Man were loaded and dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, that nearly obliterated the two cities.

So Mr. Sablan, if we appear indifferent, apprehensive, and frightened about the military's land use plan for Pagan Island, it is because we actually are. So for once, let us be a little bit smarter for our own good. History teaches us valuable lesson, let us learn from it. Preventing the military from destroying the virgin island of Pagan is the right decision for us to make. Not everything in life is about money; dignity and respect stand internally indispensable.

crease in any capacity of military activity in the Marianas and, at this point in time, view that an extension of six months is needed because villagers must have the opportunity to take the time to fully vet the volumes of information produced by the military or its contractors over

much longer periods of time.

*The authors are members of the Alternative Zero coalition that opposes the U.S. military's proposed plans for the islands of Tinian and Pagan.*

## CNMI PERSPECTIVES

The impending militarization  
of the Commonwealth

*This is an occasional addendum to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion section, soliciting the viewpoints, opinions, and thoughts of experts, academics, and members of the public on a specific topic.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# The government's job on legalization

First and foremost is the fact that the government is responsible for setting the conditions for all of the people in the CNMI to prosper or benefit from the government's efforts. It would be irresponsible of the government to hand over an entirely new industry to the private sector that is not supported by banks and financial institutions and is also against federal law. The governments of America also spent billions fighting marijuana and it is only right and even compensational in nature that the government becomes the primary benefactor of the financial revenues from legalization. There is also the fact that giving control of the marijuana industry to the private sector will only serve to continue to make the rich richer and the poor poorer but a government operation in partnership with the private sector will have better controls, it will benefit all the people and make it more possible for the average person to become a self-made millionaire. Only investors and/or the rich looking for personal gain to cash in on this new industry would complain about the government controlling the marijuana industry to help all

the people.

The government will not be running the lives of people by maintaining control over the marijuana industry because the people will be free to grow their

own! Businesses and individuals just won't be able to exploit a government system because it is the business of marijuana that the government will control, especially when marijuana is still

a Schedule 1 drug and illegal under federal law. If Colorado and Washington have taught us anything it is the fact that these governments could not fully control individuals and busi-

nesses who sought to circumvent and violate Colorado's law by selling without a license and dispensaries purchasing their supply from unlicensed growers

See **LETTERS** on Page 14



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**Nick Brennfleck**, Eleventh year teaching, Masters of Teaching from George Mason

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## LETTERS

From Page 13

(Mexican cartels). A government operation will eliminate all of these types of crimes and have a lot more money than Colorado to help the people!

The person who complained about a government system need to learn a little bit more about America and our founders who had no idea that things like the Internet, the criminal and legalization of marijuana in conflict with federal law and other issues would evolve and need to be addressed, which is why they gave us a living and ever changing Constitution and laws so we could adapt. The states that chose to give the marijuana industry to the private sector weren't thinking and actually stuck in traditional free enterprise con-

cepts when it is now clear and obvious they should have been thinking outside the box on this unique issue and circumstances of conflict with federal laws. FYI, there are certain states and places in America where the state or county still has control of all liquor sales, which is sold at state stores, not private businesses, so please get more educated about America before you start complaining about how the CNMI should be.

Why should the government continue creating control problems for itself by letting individuals get a license to sell and the government will still have to watch their every move to make sure they don't sell to our youth? Only the businesses will get rich and the government continues catching hell by enforcing the law and trying to collect all the taxes. It is simpler, easier, and more

financially beneficial to all the people for the government to monitor and control itself as the only one selling to protect our youth. Once marijuana is fully decriminalized by the federal government, then it can be considered to turn the entire marijuana industry over to the private sector. But until that time, the CNMI should heed the lessons taught by Colorado and Washington as the best methodology for legalization is a government-controlled partnership with the private sector. Legalization is not about opening doors for investors to get richer but helping the CNMI government and all the local people to have a better quality of life, with opportunities for some to become rich.

**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
Kagman, Saipan

## Finding answers to the retirees' questions

A close friend of mine of over 40 years, Bill Stewart, had an article in your paper on May 19 titled "Retirees running out of time (in more ways than one)." Mr. Stewart mentioned about "Mr. Fix-it" and further stated in the article... "and drafting him for the next governor" etc. I am flattered and sincerely appreciate his views. I think Bill's idea of drafting me to be the next governor was prompted by his deep concern for hundreds, if not thousands, of defined benefit members (retirees) who are looking for answers to the questions about the fluctuations in their pension and how it affected their life insurance coverage to an indemnity rate of 1.8

instead of the original 2.0.

I do not have to be drafted to run for governor in order to be able to help my fellow retirees find the answers we are all looking for. My employer considers this task a "community service" and as such I am perfectly willing to do whatever I can to seek the answers and share them with

my colleagues. It might be necessary to request the representatives of the CNMI government and the Settlement Trustee to meet with the retirees. If and when a meeting is set, I would like the help of the media to record it so other off-island retirees will have access to the proceedings of the meeting.

I ask the indulgence of the retirees to bear with me as it will take time to prepare a function.

**David M. Sablan Sr.**  
Papago, Saipan

## MACEDONIA

From Page 10

ment beckons non-EU nations. People fail to see why their country has to be worse. What Putin doesn't—or doesn't want to—understand is that corrupt foreign politicians are at risk of being overthrown, which can wipe out years of Russian diplomatic efforts and harm Russia's economic interests.

Russia has now beefed up its embassy in Skopje and is beginning to echo Gruevski's claims about foreign agents. Moscow cannot, however, protect a rotten regime that's genuinely losing Macedonians' trust—and the recordings are a good reason for the locals to mistrust their government.

The West, however, has a habit of failing to extend its support to reformers much beyond the day of regime change. The result is that countries slide back into their corrupt ways. That's what happened in Ukraine after 2005, and, in recent years, in Georgia. Macedonia, whose EU membership ambitions have been hampered by Greece because of a longstanding dispute, deserves clearer guarantees of a European path if it gets rid of Gruevski and moves toward a stronger democracy and cleaner government. If that interferes with Putin's pipeline plans, that's fine: Russia will still get its gas to Europe through Turkey, even if it doesn't have a stake in the infrastructure that will carry it.

## REVISIONS

From Page 11

denied overtime pay under this exemption.

We will soon issue a proposal to update these rules. The proposal will go through a formal notice and comment process, which gives the public and all interested parties the opportunity to provide input.

**Need more information?**  
If you have additional ques-

tions about overtime requirements please visit our overtime website or contact us at 1-866-487-9243. You will be directed to the nearest Wage and Hour Division office for assistance. There are offices throughout the country with trained professionals to help you, and all information that you share is confidential. Protecting your right to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work starts with understanding the rules—we are here to help.

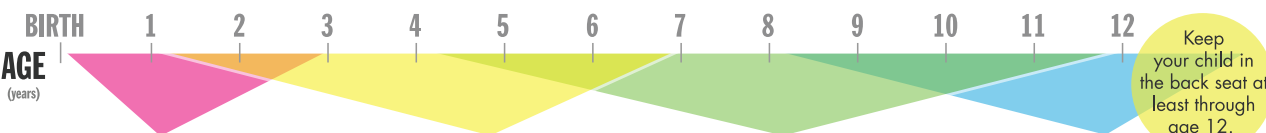
CLICK-IT OR TICKET  
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization

May 18 - 31, 2015



## Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



## REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

## FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

## BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

## SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

## DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)

A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A **SEATBELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



CNMI Department of Public Safety. For more information call:

SAIPAN 664-9001/9125 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9530

[www.dps.gov.mp](http://www.dps.gov.mp)



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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375  
Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID  
ITB15-GOV-084Procurement and Delivery of Desktop Computer Hardware  
with UPS, Software and Printers

Submission Date: May 26, 2015  
Opening Date: May 26, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of desktop computer hardware with UPS, software and printers for the Rota Mayor's Office and Rota Department of Public Safety.

The project package will be available on Friday, May 1, 2015 at CIP- Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt must be presented when obtaining a package. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing on or before May 11, 2015 to CIP-Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill or fax to (670) 664-2408. Response to questions will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB15-GOV-084 Procurement and Delivery of Desktop Computer Hardware with UPS, Software and Printers**, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., May 26, 2015. Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time May 26, 2015.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part and to waive any imperfection in any bid in the best interest of the Government. All bids shall become the property of the GNMI Government.

Eloy S. Inos, Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply



# MCS names new principal; renews president's contract

Mount Carmel School recently appointed master teacher and two-time Teacher of the Year Frances Taimanao as its new principal. The school's board of directors also renewed the contract of school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

## An instructional leader

Taimanao brings a wealth of classroom and administrative experience to her new position as principal. In addition to retiring as a vice principal at San Vicente Elementary School, Taimanao was also appointed by

the late Dr. Rita Hocog Inos to open Kagman Elementary School in 2001 as its acting principal. Taimanao has also served on Mount Carmel School's board of directors as a faculty representative and has led in other ways as an accreditation chair and an adviser for the school's first ever National Elementary Honor Society, which she helped found.

When asked about how she feels about the new position,



Taimanao

Taimanao said: "I am very excited and I look forward to continuing the positive relationship with the MCS family and creating an excellent educational environment for every child."

"Being at MCS for almost nine years, I have built a strong relationship with my fellow colleagues. We have built camaraderie and support each other when things get hard. I consider everyone at MCS my second family," she added.

Board chair Joseph Tajeron commended Taimanao for her leadership and instructional quality. "Mount Carmel is lucky to have Mrs. Taimanao, a master teacher who thrives in the classroom," he said. "Taking her out

of one classroom places her in a position to help every student in every classroom."

MCS president Deleon Guerrero echoed Tajeron's sentiment. "As someone who has mentored numerous other teachers as a master teacher for Northern Marianas College's School of Education, Mrs. Taimanao is the perfect leader to help all our teachers improve in curriculum, instruction, and assessment," he said.



Deleon Guerrero

of directors. Deleon Guerrero also brings a wealth of leadership and educational experience with him, having served on both the Public School System's Board of Education and the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents.

Deleon Guerrero also served as the college's accreditation liaison officer and director of Institutional Effectiveness and as an education adviser for the Office of the Governor. Deleon Guerrero possesses a master of arts degree in Catholic School Administration from the University of San Francisco.

On his contract renewal, Deleon Guerrero said: "I love this school and appreciate this opportunity, again, to serve her.

With Mrs. Taimanao coming on board, I look forward to working with her to continue the great momentum the school has gained in the past three years with our enrollment increases, our technology upgrades, and accreditation work."

This summer, Deleon Guerrero will continue his commitment to lifelong learning by pursuing his passion to make films as part of New York University's summer film program, for which the school's board expressed its full support. As Tajeron put it, "The board fully supports the president's efforts to participate in this prestigious film program. He's leading by example and showing our students that learning is a lifelong process. Every school administrator should inspire students to keep learning. As a chairman, I'd be worried if he didn't believe in continuing education." (MCS)

## Sister Remedios students achieve high marks on standardized test

Students at Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center recently posted high gains in the SAT-10 standardized test, scoring above the national mean in all major subjects tested.

SREDCD principal Bennet Seman was very happy with the results. "These results show that we're really working hard for the kids." She also commended the students, saying, "They've done very well, especially scoring above the national mean."

For the complete battery, on

average, SREDCD students scored in the 78th percentile, well above the national mean at the 66th percentile. In reading, students scored at the 86th percentile, compared to the national mean, 72nd percentile. In math, students scored at the 83rd percentile, above the national mean, 69th percentile.

The SAT-10, or the 10th edition of the Stanford Achievement Test, is a set of standardized achievement tests used by several schools and school districts across the nation. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF  
ITB15-BECQ-071**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 16, 2015**
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL (TINIAN BRANCH) FOR THE BUREAU  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABULIMAN**  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ
/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
Procurement & Property Management Office**

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.  
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 • Fax: (670) 235-7601  
E-mail: [procurement@nmcnet.edu](mailto:procurement@nmcnet.edu) • Website: [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**NMC BID#: IFB NMC15-003**  
 NMC CREES SUPPLY AND DELIVERY  
 OF NEW RESEARCH FARM EQUIPMENTS  
 NMC CREES RESEARCH FARMS SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of New Research Farm Equipment's for Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, May 18, 2015, between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., June 18, 2015,** at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award #2014-31100 (Regular).

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho ([anita.camacho@marianas.edu](mailto:anita.camacho@marianas.edu)).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho  
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Dr. Tim Kock  
Dean-Director, NMC CREES

# NEW! GUACAMOLE

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# ESGR national chair Paul Mock visits the CNMI

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Paul E. Mock, national chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, visited the Commonwealth yesterday to meet with military leaders, business owners, and community leaders.

Responding to an invitation from ESGR chair for Guam and CNMI David Sablan, Mock met with the volunteers they have in Guam and the CNMI, including key employers that support the ESGR. There are a total of 20 volunteers for Guam and the CNMI.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at JP Center yesterday, Mock said he was also here because of a personal interest in Saipan.

"Saipan is of special interest to me, especially since my dad served here in World War II. I thought that it was pretty interesting on a personal note and the war history and the sacrifices made by so many people. This is my first time to visit Guam and Saipan and it is a great opportunity to meet with the volunteers, service members, employers and everyone else," Mock said.

Sablan noted that ESGR



JAYSON CAMACHO

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve national chair Paul E. Mock, third from right, and his wife join in a group photo with ESGR Guam and CNMI subcommittee chair David Sablan, third from left, and his wife, along with an ESGR volunteer, far left, and Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan yesterday.

will be hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Employer Gala Awards on Saturday, May 23, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort and Spa in Guam to honor 50 employers that support ESGR's mission.

"This is to thank these 50 employers, and it includes Guam and the CNMI. In fact, the Public School System is one of the known ESGR awardees," Sablan said.

Mock said that there are a total of 4,700 ESGR volunteers nationwide.

"Our center of operation is our volunteers. Each state or territory may have two volunteers that are paid, but the volunteers are what make the ESGR program going," he said.

He noted that volunteer hours totaled 250,000 across the nation last year.

"When you calculate that under the [Department of Labor]

rate of the wage per hour, that is the return of investment of about \$5.4 million worth of labor that we provide to the Department of Defense for free and no cost. Another return on investment is mediating complaints and preventing them from becoming DOL cases, or worse, where they go to the Department of Justice. Over 1,800 cases were resolved, and avoided costs of \$6.1 million. So more than \$11 million was saved for the federal government. Not many volunteer organizations can say that. We are the only organization in DOD that advocates for employers," Mock said.

"Everything we do is for the benefit of our military and readiness," he added.

There are a total of 4,300 employers in Guam and at least 400 employers on Saipan that support ESGR.



MAY 2015

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

MAY 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2015 • 6PM-10PM

MAY 30, 2015 • 6PM-11PM

## Saturday, May 23, 2015 Entertainment

6:00 p.m.	<b>CNMI Saipan Awadori</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Nenpou Shinkyo</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>Ana Glushko Academy</b>
8:00 p.m.	<b>Luis Laforte</b>
8:30 p.m.	<b>TekaNahaNui</b>
9:30 p.m.	<b>Blue Dream Band</b>
10:00 p.m.	<b>Closing</b>

**Last year to use your yellow tokens!**

## Food Concessionaires

- Canton Restaurant
- Coral Ocean Point Resort
- D'Elegance Café
- Fiesta Resort & Spa
- Furusato Restaurant
- Herman's Modern Bakery
- Hula Girl
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Kanoa Resort
- Mariana Resort & Spa
- Pacific Islands Club Saipan
- Sierra's Pearl Shake
- Thai House Restaurant
- Tony Roma's/Capricciosa
- Tropical Chill

## Beer Garden Vendors

- Pacific Trading Company
- Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
- Northern Marianas Bartender Association



For more information contact  
MVA at telephone: (670) 664-3200/01  
Email: mva@mymarianas.com  
www.mymarianas.com



## 2015 CNMI TOURISM MONTH

*"Tourism is Everybody's Business"*

### Proclamation Signing

April 29, 2015

Governor Eloy S. Inos will officially declare the month of May 2015 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our industry partners invite the public to participate in the activities of the Tourism Month celebration.

### Tourism Industry Clean up Day

April 29, 2015

Marianas Visitors Authority invites the community to join the Japan Saipan Travel Association and our other tourism partners to help beautify the Garapan tourism district in preparation for Japan's Golden Week holiday. The clean-up will be from 6:30-8:00 a.m., beginning at the American Memorial Park parking lot to Carolinian Affairs Office along the beaches and streets.

### "Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."

### Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

### "My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas.

### On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Topics feature of the Saipan Tribune.

### Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. Tourism Trivia will air regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (97.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

### Tourist for a Day (Tinian)

Pupils and students will be toured around the island as tourists bringing forth awareness of the importance of the only industry we have. The tour will include all major historical and cultural sites including beaches on the island while emphasizing on the value of maintaining such sites.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

### FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CAR RENTAL BUILDING EXPANSION PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the expansion of the car rental building at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendy L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, June 5, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (25 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to airport improvement projects – (25 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with airport projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time – (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., June 19, 2015. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI  
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 19, 2015



# Kilili, Karidat organize relief effort for Rota

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has announced a privately-funded relief effort to assist the residents of Rota as they continue to deal with the aftermath of Typhoon Dolphin.

## » Cash donations sought to purchase food, cooking supplies

He is partnering with Karidat, a local 501(c)3 charitable organization in order to accept monetary donations from individuals and businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Really, what is most needed

[on] Rota right now are durable foodstuffs that can be easily prepared and do not require refrigeration, as well as cooking supplies such as butane for portable stoves," according to Sablan.

"Our family and friends on Rota will likely be facing shortages in the near future."

"I've always been moved by how quickly we have been able to provide aid to other communities in the face of natural disasters. We accomplish many

great things when we put our hearts and minds to it. People on Rota have a great need

as a result of Typhoon Dolphin. I am asking people to please be generous and to please help Rota now," he added.

The effort is aimed at collecting monetary donations, rather than in-kind donations, so that



Sablan

purchases can be made uniformly and quickly. Donations in the form of cash or check can be delivered to the Karidat office in the Sablan Building in Chalan Piao. For additional

information, individuals and businesses interested in supporting the relief effort can contact Karidat at 234-5248. Deadline for donations is Thursday, May 28, 2015. (PR)

## Local student graduates from Oregon State U

**CORVALLIS, Oregon**—Oregon State University will hold its 146th commencement on Saturday, June 13, beginning at 10:30am in Reser Stadium.

One of the candidates for graduation is Tinian native Winona-Rebekah B. Maratita, who will earn a bachelor of science degree in General Science.

OSU is one of the few large universities in the nation to hand out students' actual diplomas during the commencement ceremony.

The commencement speaker

is Howard K. Koh, director of the Leading Change Studio at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Koh, who served as the nation's 14 Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will receive an honorary doctorate.

Commencement is free and open to the public; no tickets are necessary. More information about OSU's graduation is available online at <http://oregonstate.edu/events/commencement/>. (OSU)

## NMC graduation will stream live online

Families and friends who are not able to attend the Northern Marianas College's 35th Commencement Exercise in person on May 23rd, 2015 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium can watch the event live online. The graduation ceremony will

be streamed live at the following website, <http://www.marianas.edu/nmclivetv/>

The live stream will begin at approximately 4:30pm (local CNMI time) on Saturday May 23, 2015, and will end at about 6:30pm. (NMC)

### GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to Jheyden Miquele R. Ablog, Green Meadow School's K5 Valedictorian and recipient of the Leadership and Fast Worker awards. We're so proud of you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday RJ! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come. We love you!

## Sablan Enterprises, Inc dba SABLON REALTY



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### VS Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao

Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM

Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, KRM General Merchandise, Subway "Eat Fresh"

### Sunday Bazaar

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invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free.**

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### Commercial Space for Rent

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### Sablon Building in San Jose

Units on the **Second Floor** are available at **50¢ per square foot.**

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#### Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA

we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **50 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq. ft.

Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot.**

**Second Floor** - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot.**

**3rd Floor (2 Units)** 2 Bedroom Apartment at **\$354.00/mo.**

**2nd Floor Office Space (2 Units)** Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - **800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.**

Contact Tony Muna  
(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: [plebechamp80@gmail.com](mailto:plebechamp80@gmail.com))  
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: [ben.sablan1994@gmail.com](mailto:ben.sablan1994@gmail.com))  
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

## CNMI PSS Head Start Program

### NOW RECRUITING FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Comprehensive services to eligible children and families in Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

### TEACHING CHILDREN • SUPPORTING FAMILIES

#### Who Should Apply?

- Families with children ages 3 and 4
- Families with children who turn 5 years old after the cut-off age for kindergarten, September 30
- Families that meet the income guidelines
- Families receiving public assistance, such as SSI
- Families with a child who has an IEP
- Foster care families
- Homeless families

#### How Do I Apply?

Natural parents or legal guardians need to complete and submit the Head Start application packet and required documents.

- Head Start Program Application;
- Proof of all family income stubs for the last 12 months such as, 1040 and W2, pay check stubs, statement from employer, child support, student financial aid, retirement benefits, LES;
- Child's birth certificate;
- Child's Medicaid or other medical insurance coverage;
- Documentation of participation in WIC, NAP, LIHEAP, and/or housing assistance;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) photo ID;
- Legal documents relating to guardianship or custody;
- Copy of IEP for children with disabilities;
- SSI documentation, if applicable.

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL HEAD START CENTERS AND AT THE HEAD START OFFICES IN CAPITOL HILL BUILDINGS 1256 & 1259**

Head Start Centers will be closed beginning on June 10, please visit our offices or call us after that date. The CNMI PSS Head Start Program does not provide transportation services.

**PLEASE CALL 323-7446/7447 OR 322-1739 FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

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Monday to Saturday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.







## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Procurement and Installation of a Rotating Beacon Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Project No. CPA-SA-003-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new rotating beacon, climbing device and basket at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and an additional 1-year preventive maintenance services.

All requirements under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) latest edition of Advisory Circular 150/5345-12, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment. See Scope of Work (SOW) for specific details. The SOW and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project.

A site inspection will be conducted on **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** in order to assess the condition and area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Prospective proposers shall meet the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, at the beacon site at 9:00 a.m.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager at cpa.edmendiola@pticom.com.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Acting Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: May 6, 2015

## June 1 deadline for USDA-RD grant

The deadline to submit a Rural Business Development Grant application is on June 1, 2015, and a total of \$108,000 is available for Hawaii and \$64,000 is available for the Western Pacific for rural business development and job creation for fiscal year 2015.

Application packets may be submitted to any USDA Rural Development office in Hawaii or Western Pacific.

"Rural Development continues to invest in rural communities and businesses that create new economic opportunities," said State Director Chris J. Kanazawa. "Under President Obama's administration we have seen steady growth in rural business development. The Rural Business Development Grant is one of many programs that assist rural businesses in building capacity and sustainability."

Congress established the Rural Business Development Grant under the 2014 Farm Bill by combining USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant and Rural Business Opportunity Grant programs. The applicant eligibility for the program is to public bodies/governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribal groups. RBDG can be used to acquire or develop land, buildings, plants and equipment; build or improve access roads, parking areas, utility extensions, and water and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and to support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job-training.

For more information on the RBDG program, please contact

one of the following Business Programs Specialist:

■ Shirley Heatherly at (808) 483-8600, ext. 118 or shirley.heatherly@hi.usda.gov for Oahu, Kauai; and American Samoa.

■ Lori Nekoba at (808) 933-8312 or lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov for Maui and Hawaii County.

■ Anthony Barcinas at (671) 472-8567 or anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov for Western Pacific.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way-strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. (**USDA**)

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL) COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT

#### RFP15-RED001 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 19, 2015

#### "QUARRY OPERATOR ON PUBLIC LANDS"

Governor Eloy S. Inos, and Lieutenant Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the DPL is soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified quarry operators.

The RFP instruction and information package can be picked up at the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, during working hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions regarding this RFP must be received **no later than 4:30pm on Friday, May 29, 2015** and must be submitted in writing to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary of DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands  
P.O. Box 500380  
Saipan, MP 96950  
2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53  
Facsimile number (670) 234-3755  
Email: [pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp](mailto:pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp)

Sealed proposals must be marked **'RFP15-RED002' Quarry Operator**. One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 10:00am ChST, June 19, 2015.**

Interviews may be conducted with the top two (2) ranked firms to discuss the proposal submitted if DPL deems the two proposals to be similarly advantageous to DPL.

This RFP does not commit the CNMI or DPL to award a permit or pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal or attendance at meetings with CNMI or DPL. Failure to submit the required number of proposal copies or incomplete content and layout of proposal as stated in the information package may be cause for rejection or disqualification. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposal and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion would be in the best interests of the public land beneficiaries. All proposal shall become the sole property of the Department of Public Lands.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO  
Secretary, Department of Public Lands



## COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Email: [administration@cda.gov.mp](mailto:administration@cda.gov.mp) • Website: [www.cda.gov.mp](http://www.cda.gov.mp)



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR BOND TRUSTEE SERVICES 2015-CDA-04-RFP (Amended) Deadline changed to 4:30 p.m., May 26, 2015 from 4:30 p.m., May 23, 2015

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), are soliciting proposals for bond trustee services.

The original and six (6) copies of a proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on May 26, 2015. No proposals will be accepted after that date and time. Proposals shall be in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for Bond Trustee Services" and delivered to the attention of:

Mr. Herman S. Sablan,  
Director Division of Procurement and Supply (P&S)  
Department of Finance  
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Lower Base  
Saipan, MP 96950

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Electronic copies of the Proposal will not be accepted. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
CDA Executive Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply



Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

**Police identify suspect in slaying of wealthy DC family**  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Police identified a suspect late Wednesday in the mysterious slayings of a wealthy Washington family and their housekeeper inside their multimillion-dollar home. The man, who was still at large, was identified as 34-year-old Daron Dylan Wint. An arrest warrant has been issued for Wint on charges of first-degree murder, the Metropolitan Police Department said in a news release. Authorities have previously released very little information

about who might have killed the family or why. When firefighters responded to the house for a fire May 14, they found the slain bodies still inside. Authorities believe the fire was intentionally set. Slain were 46-year-old Savvas Savopoulos; his 47-year-old wife, Amy; their son, Philip; and housekeeper Veralicia Figueroa.

**California farmers offer to give up some water, avoid cuts**  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A group of California farmers, in a surprising turnaround, is volunteering to give up a fourth of its

available water this year, sharing a resource all but guaranteed to them for more than a century. A senior water official told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he would decide whether to accept the offer by Friday. The concession by farmers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River delta could be one of the most important yet forced by California’s record four-year drought. In exchange for taking 25 percent less river water for irrigation or leaving a quarter of their fields unplanted, the farmers want guarantees that the state won’t restrict the remaining 75 percent of the water they’ve had rights to, even if the drought deepens and other users go dry.

**2nd Marine killed in Hawaii crash identified as Arizona man**  
HONOLULU (AP)—The military has identified the second Marine killed in the crash of a hybrid military aircraft in Hawaii this week as Lance Cpl. Matthew Determan of Maricopa, Arizona. The Marine Corps said Wednesday the 21-year-old died of injuries sustained when an MV-22 crashed at Bellows Air Force Station. The Marines say Determan was a rifleman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California. He deployed to Hawaii with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The crash also killed Lance Cpl. Joshua

Barron of Spokane, Washington. The MV-22B Osprey, which can fly like a helicopter and a fixed-wing airplane, went down Sunday at a military base outside Honolulu with 21 Marines and a Navy corpsman on board. Two other Marines are still hospitalized in stable condition, Block said.

**Oil slicks spread 9 miles off California, foul beaches, air**  
GOLETA, Calif. (AP)—An oil spill from a ruptured onshore pipeline that fouled beaches and threatened wildlife along a scenic stretch of the California coast spread across 9 miles of ocean Wednesday and officials said up to 105,000

gallons may have leaked out. Up to a fifth of that amount—21,000 gallons—reached the sea, according to estimates. Federal regulators were investigating the leak as workers in protective suits raked and shoveled stinky black goo off the beaches, and boats towed booms into place to corral the two slicks off the Santa Barbara coast. The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969—the largest in U.S. waters at the time—that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement. The chief executive of the company that runs the pipeline, Plains All American Pipeline LP, was at the site of the spill Wednesday and apologized for it.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315



Frances A. Castro  
Director, DCRM

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
*Of the*  
**DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS MEETING**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Special Meeting will be held on **Friday, May 29, 2015, at 10:00 AM** at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality conference room, Suite 205, Gualo Rai Center, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

a) Call to Order  
b) Roll Call


**II. PERMIT APPLICATION**

1. GRAND MARIANA CASINO and HOTEL RESORT (CRM Permit Application No.SMS-2015-X-029)


a. Project Introduction by Micronesian Environmental Services  
b. Discussion by DCRM Agency Officials and Director  
c. Permit Application Status

**III. OTHER MATTERS**

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315



Frances A. Castro  
Director, DCRM

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
*Of the*  
**DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS MEETING**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 9:30 AM** at the Office of the Mayor, San Jose, Tinian.

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

a) Call to Order  
b) Roll Call

**II. PERMIT APPLICATION**

1. PLUMERIA RESORT (CRM Permit Application No.SMS-2015-X-028)

a. Project Introduction by Alter City Group, Inc.  
b. Discussion by DCRM Agency Officials and Director  
c. Permit Application Status

**III. OTHER MATTERS**

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA**  
**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**CPA-IFB -006-15**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning May 22nd, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-006-15. CONFIDENTIAL"

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, June 26, 2015**. Bids will be opened at 3:00 P.M., June 26, 2015 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor – Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to [atudela@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:atudela@cpa.gov.mp) (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than June 22, 2015. **Any question or clarification will not be entertained after June 22, 2015.** Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
  
MaryAnn Q. Lizama  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES**  
**SAIPAN HARBOR MASTER PLAN**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-15**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)

2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)

3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);

4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);

5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and

6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, June 29, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIHOI  
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 20, 2015



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES**  
**TINIAN HARBOR MASTER PLAN**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-15**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)

2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)

3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);

4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);

5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and

6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.


The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIHOI  
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 20, 2015



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES**  
**ROTA HARBOR MASTER PLAN**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RS-001-15**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Rota West Harbor, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)

2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)

3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);

4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);

5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and

6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, JUNE 26, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIHOI  
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 20, 2015



## Asia

## Malaysia orders sea search and rescue for migrants

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister said Thursday he has ordered the navy and the coast guard to comb the sea to look for stranded migrants, the first country to announce it will search for the refugees in desperate need of help instead of waiting for them to wash up on Southeast Asia's shores.

As the region's migrant crisis enters its fourth week, it remains unclear how many vulnerable people are adrift at sea but aid groups and the U.N. say there could be thousands and time is running out to save them.

In the past three weeks, more than 3,000 people—Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar and Bangladesh trying to escape poverty—have landed in overcrowded boats on the shores of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. After initially pushing many boats back, Malaysia and Indonesia announced on Wednesday that they will offer temporary shelter to all incoming migrants.



Migrants sit on their boat as they wait to be rescued by Acehese fishermen on the sea off East Aceh, Indonesia, Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

Although the announcement was seen as a major breakthrough, rights groups said the

proposal addressed only part of the problem, and urged countries to start actively searching

for those stranded at sea. The U.N. refugee agency believes there are 4,000 still at sea, al-

though some activists put the number at 6,000.

Prime Minister Najib Razak addressed the concern via Twitter, saying that he had ordered the navy and coast guard "to conduct search and rescue efforts (for) Rohingya boats. We have to prevent loss of life."

Aid groups estimate that thousands are adrift on vessels without food and water, following a crackdown on human traffickers that prompted captains and smugglers to abandon their boats.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of Malaysia was scheduled to visit Myanmar on Thursday to discuss the crisis. The ministry issued a delicately worded statement saying the two would "exchange views on irregular movements of people ... in Southeast Asia," using politically correct language so as not to offend Myanmar—which refuses to shoulder any blame for the crisis or discuss the matter if the word "Rohingya" is mentioned.

The U.N. says the Rohingya are one of the most persecuted groups in the world. Neither Myanmar nor Bangladesh recognizes them as citizens. In Buddhist-majority Myanmar, even the name Rohingya is taboo. Myanmar officials refer to the group as "Bengalis" and insist they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even though most have lived in the country for generations.

Over the past few years, Myanmar's Rohingya have faced increasing state-sanctioned discrimination. They have been targeted by violent mobs of Buddhist extremists and confined to camps. At least 120,000 have fled to sea, and an unknown number have died along the way.

While Indonesia and Malaysia said Wednesday they would temporarily take in some refugees, they also appealed for international help, saying the crisis is a global, not a regional, problem.

"This is not an ASEAN problem," Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said Wednesday, referring to the 10-nation grouping of Southeast Asian countries. "This is a problem for the international community."

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said his government was ready to shelter Rohingya for one year, while the Bangladeshis would be sent back home. "A year is (the) maximum," he said. "But there should be international cooperation." Malaysia has also set a one-year time limit.

So far there have been two offers from the international community.

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday the United States was also willing to take in Rohingya refugees as part of international efforts to cope with the crisis. Spokeswoman Marie Harf said that the U.S. is prepared to take a leading role in any multicountry effort, organized by the United Nations refugee agency, to resettle the most vulnerable refugees.

The tiny African country of Gambia has also said it was willing to take in Rohingya refugees. "As human beings, more so fellow Muslims, it is (our) sacred duty to help," the presidency said in a statement.

The No. 2 U.S. diplomat, currently visiting Southeast Asia, said he will raise the humanitarian crisis of the Rohingya when he meets with senior Myanmar government leaders on Thursday.

"The only sustainable solution to the problem is changing the conditions that let them put their lives at risk at the first place," Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told reporters in Jakarta.

## Prayer to St. Rita

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors hast been called the Advocate of the Hopeless and even of the Impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee, expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee. We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee that *(here mention your request)*.

**Feast Day: May 22**

Patron Saint of: Hopeless cases, victims of abuse and widows.



## ST. RITA

*Wife, Mother, Widow, Nun*

St. Rita was born in Umbria, Italy, about the year 1386, and died at Cascia, in the year 1456. Being the daughter of parents who were advanced in years, she met with much opposition when she let it be known of your intention of becoming a nun. Yielding to her parents desires, she married a cruel man. After converting him from his wicked ways, he was murdered by criminals. Left alone in the world, she applied several times for admissions into the Augustinian convent in Cascia.

Every application was refused, and God Himself cleared away all obstacles and she entered the convent, made her profession and lived the life of a holy and devout religious for forty-two years, "a shining example of every Christian virtue, pure as a lily, simple as a dove, and obedient as an angel." That "God is wonderful in His saints" is easily proven in the life of St. Rita.

On one occasion Rita requested a rose to be brought to her from her garden at Porena in the middle of winter. The rose was found in full bloom. At another time, she asked for a fig, and the same was found.

The reports of these wonders spread far and wide and people flocked to the convent from all parts of the world, only to receive in return for their faith in God through the prayers of Rita many spiritual and earthly favors. Because of the great number of miracles made possible by St. Rita, she is often called "The Saint of the Impossible."



# World

## Islamic State seizes ancient town of Palmyra in Syria

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Islamic State extremists captured the ancient Syrian town of Palmyra after government defense lines there collapsed Wednesday, a stunning triumph for the group only days after it captured the strategic city of Ramadi in Iraq.

It was unclear by nightfall how close to Palmyra's famed archaeological site the militants had advanced, activists said, adding that Syrian soldiers were seen fleeing the area.

## South Sudan: Casualties as UN compound is bombed

**KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)**—Four civilians, including a woman and a child, were killed on Tuesday when two mortar bombs exploded inside a U.N. compound in the town of Melut in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, the U.N. reported on Wednesday as rebel forces and government troops battled for control of a strategic oil hub.

Eight more people were injured in the blast on Tuesday evening, the U.N. mission in South Sudan said in a statement, adding that it is "deeply concerned by the disregard for civilian lives, U.N. personnel and facilities."

Fighting has recently intensified in South Sudan's Upper Nile and Unity states as government troops and rebel forces fight for control of territory. At stake are the Upper Nile oil fields of Paloch, which the rebels said they were poised

to seize on Wednesday. As the country's last remaining functional oil fields, they are crucial for South Sudan's increasingly vulnerable economy.

"It's just a matter of hours" before Paloch falls, said Col. Tony Ngundeng, a spokesman for rebels loyal to Riek Machar, the former deputy president whose dismissal in July 2013 sparked political unrest that later boiled over into a full-blown rebellion.

The rebels' claims were immediately dismissed by South Sudanese military spokesman Col. Philip Aguer, who told The Associated Press that the rebels had been repulsed and the oil fields are no longer threatened.

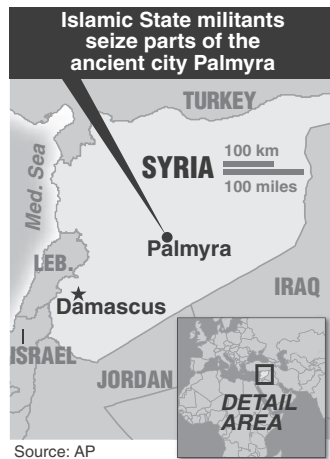
The deputy spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general, Farhan Haq, told reporters Wednesday that the Security Council is considering "further steps" against those obstructing South Sudan's peace process.

The ruins at Palmyra are one of the world's most renowned historic sites and there were fears the extremists would destroy them as they did major archaeological sites in Iraq. The UNESCO world heritage site is famous for its 2,000-year-old towering Roman-era colonnades and other ruins and priceless artifacts. Before the war, thousands of tourists a year visited the remote desert outpost, a cherished landmark referred to by Syrians as the "Bride of the Desert."

The fall of the town to the Islamic State group after a week of fighting was an enormous loss to the government, not only because of its cultural significance, but because it opens the way for the extremists to advance to key government-held areas, including Damascus and the Syrian coast to the south and southwest, as well as the contested eastern city of Deir el-Zour to the east.

Next to it are also important gas and oil fields in the country's central region.

It was not immediately clear how close the militants were to



Source: AP  
Graphic: Staff, TNS



FILE - This FILE photo released on Sunday, May 17, 2015, by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows the general view of the ancient Roman city of Palmyra, northeast of Damascus, Syria. AP

the ruins, which are just southwest of the town.

"I am terrified," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, Syria's director-general of antiquities and museums. "This is a PR battle for Daesh, and they will insist on scoring victory against civilization by destroying" the ancient ruins, he said, using the Arabic acronym for the group.

The fall of Palmyra just days after Islamic State fighters seized the strategic Iraqi city of Ramadi showed the extrem-

ists' ability to advance on multiple fronts at opposite ends of a sprawling battlefield that spans the two countries— and erased any sense that recent IS losses in Tikrit and elsewhere had dealt a major blow to the militants.

The Syrian Observatory for human rights reported that government forces collapsed in the face of IS attacks and withdrew from the town late Wednesday. Beibares Tellawi, an activist in Homs province, also confirmed IS was in control of the town.

ists' ability to advance on multiple fronts at opposite ends of a sprawling battlefield that spans the two countries— and erased any sense that recent IS losses in Tikrit and elsewhere had dealt a major blow to the militants.

### FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY



We, the family of the late  
**†JOAQUIN CABRERA CEPEDA**

Invite all our relatives and friends  
to join us in prayers as we commemorate the  
passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at San Vicente Church every evening at  
6:00 p.m beginning Friday, May 22, 2015 and will end on Saturday,  
May 30, 2015. Dinner will be served at the  
San Vicente Social Hall thereafter.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE

Maria M. Cepeda & Children

*In Celebration of His New Life*  
**†Sylvano Teregeyo Litulumar**  
Lovingly known as "Barney"  
May 3, 1959 – May 15, 2015

*In His New Life, He Now Joins His:*

**Parents:** †Pedro Matagolai Litulumar

†Julia Teregeyo Litulumar

**Spouse:** †Acinta I. Litulumar

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Children:**

Sylvia L. Lizama / Anselmo & Children

Marlena M. Litulumar & Children

Kozo Christian I. Litulumar

Julie Marie I. Litulumar

Immaculada I. Litulumar

Lanieta I. Litulumar

**Brothers and Sisters:**

Connie / Lucio Aldan & children

Rose / David Ayuyu & Children

Cathy / Sterling Skilling & Children

Anicia / †William & Children

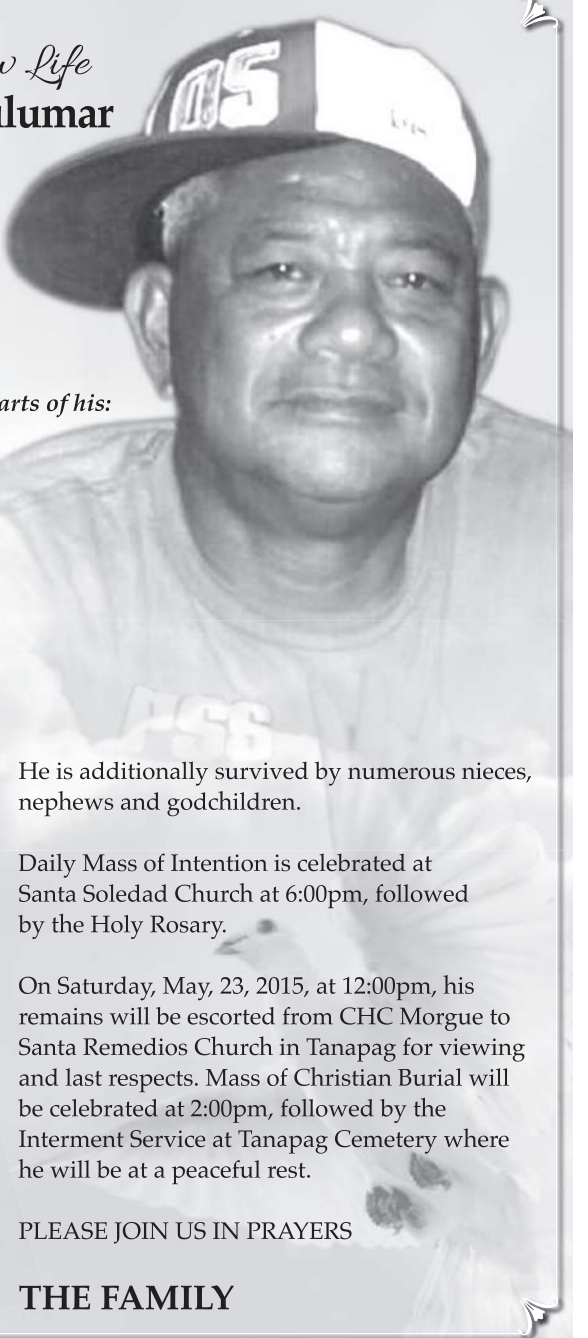
Jose / Melisa P. Litulumar & Children

Melvina T. Litulumar & Children

Pedro Litulumar (Lenice) & Children

**Special Friend:**

Juanita Camacho



He is additionally survived by numerous nieces,  
nephews and godchildren.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated at  
Santa Soledad Church at 6:00pm, followed  
by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, May 23, 2015, at 12:00pm, his  
remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to  
Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag for viewing  
and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will  
be celebrated at 2:00pm, followed by the  
Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery where  
he will be at a peaceful rest.

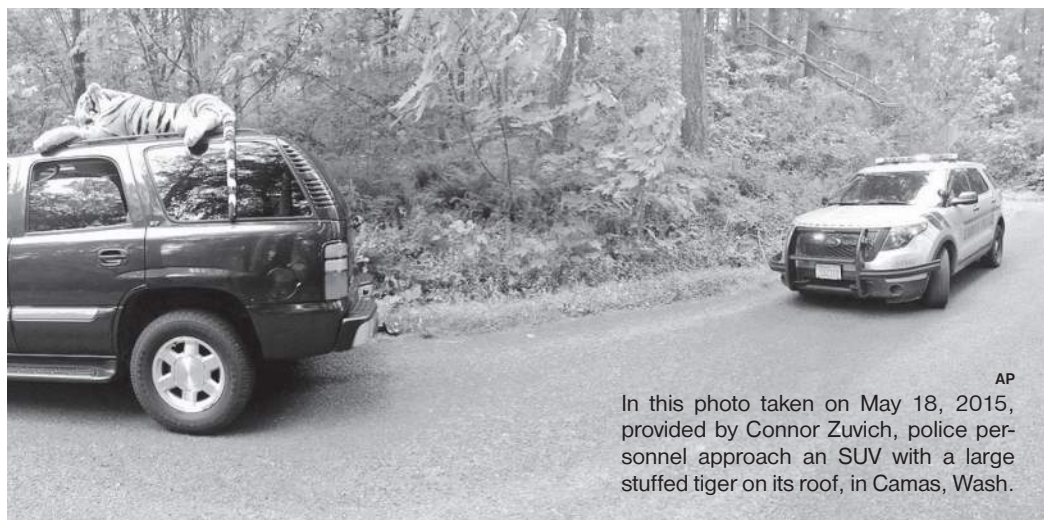
PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

**THE FAMILY**



# Off The Wall

## Large stuffed tiger atop SUV generates 911 call



AP  
In this photo taken on May 18, 2015, provided by Connor Zuvich, police personnel approach an SUV with a large stuffed tiger on its roof, in Camas, Wash.

**CAMAS, Wash. (AP)**—The sight of a stuffed tiger—a very large stuffed tiger—lashed to the top of an SUV cruising around a southwest Washington lake was enough to generate a 911 call from someone who apparently thought it was real.

The Columbian newspaper of Vancouver reports (<http://is.gd/6cnx8h>) that Connor Zuvich says he was by Lacamas Lake in Camas on Monday with some friends when a truck came by and dumped some trash and the giant tiger.

Zuvich tied it to the top of his vehicle, then he and his friends started cruising around the lake in the enhanced SUV.

Officer Henry Scott was sent to investigate the tiger 911 call, described by Camas police as an “animal problem.”

The 19-year-old Zuvich says he and the officer traded jokes and photos, then parted ways. Other drivers also got the joke, honking and giving him a thumbs-up sign.

As Zuvich says, “The thing looked really realistic.”

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Police: Burglar breaks into house, falls asleep on couch

**SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)**—Police in Sarasota, Florida, have arrested a man they say broke into a home, then fell asleep on the couch. The Bradenton Herald reports 29-year-old Timothy Bontrager was arrested Saturday morning. Police say the resident woke up and found Bontrager sleeping on her living room couch. When she asked Bontrager what he was doing in her house, he apologized and left after she told him she was calling police. Officials say the resident told them Bontrager entered through an unlocked sliding glass door in the back of the house. The resident then noticed her wallet, driver's license, credit and debit cards as well as checks were missing from the table in the living room. Bontrager was arrested a short time later. It's unclear if he has a lawyer.

#### Disney World tells riders to stop using selfie sticks

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Disney World is looking to crack down on guests who use selfie sticks on rides at the park. The Orlando Sentinel reports a spokesman said Monday guests can bring selfie sticks on the rides but must securely store them. Disney policy forbids visitors from using the sticks, which can be used to extend cameras out up to 3 feet. One ride, Thunder Mountain, has had a number of incidents in which the ride had to be stopped because of selfie-stick use. On Friday, Disney World workers posted a “No Selfie Sticks” sign at the Magic Kingdom's Thunder Mountain Railroad.

#### Squatters evicted: 40,000 bees removed from NYC home

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It wasn't a monster making a ruckus under the floor of a New York City bedroom. But it was still a bit scary. An expert called to find the source of a loud, buzzing noise found about 40,000 bees in a Queens home. Retired NYPD Detective Anthony Planakis, known as Tony Bees, was the man for the mission. It took him more than two hours to extract the unwanted residents on Monday night. The Daily News says honey dripped off the mas-

sive honeycomb as it was pulled piecemeal from beneath siding and plywood. The colony is getting a new residence upstate.

#### Police seek man who swiped nearly \$3K bottle of cognac

**LINDEN, N.J. (AP)**—Police in central New Jersey are seeking a thief who apparently appreciates the finer things in life. Linden police say a shoplifter stole a bottle of Remy Martin Louis XIII cognac valued at \$2,849 from Pied Piper Liquor Store on May 16th. Police say the store's owner reviewed surveillance video which showed the man remove the lock from a cabinet and take the bottle. The owner told police the man has been in the store in the past and has taken bottles of liquor without paying for them.

#### Iowa Capitol evacuated for burnt pizza crust

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)**—Weeks after burned macaroni and cheese emptied out the Iowa Capitol, a charred pizza crust has done it again. The crust burned Tuesday morning in the Capitol cafeteria, prompting a brief evacuation. Department of Administrative Services Spokesman Caleb Hunter says property was not damaged and no one was injured. The Iowa Legislature is still in session, but many members were not at the Capitol on Tuesday. About three weeks ago, the Capitol was evacuated when someone burned a macaroni and cheese lunch in a microwave behind the Senate chambers.

#### Dubuque worker rescues 10 ducklings from storm drain

**DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP)**—A reunited family of ducks waddled away soon after a city sewer worker rescued 10 ducklings from a Dubuque storm drain. The Dubuque Telegraph Herald says several people called 911 to report seeing a distressed duck around 11:30 a.m. Monday just a few blocks west of the Mississippi River. A police officer sent to the scene determined that the ducklings had fallen into the drain, apparently while trying to cross East 15th Street. Bill Kelly and other city sewer workers arrived and removed the heavy drain grill so he could reach the ducklings and move them to safety back above ground.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

## Lance Corporal †Stephen Austin “Silayoong” Romolor Litulumar

*Lovingly Known as “Sly”*

September 29, 1993 – May 17, 2015

#### In His New Life, He now joins his:

**Grandparents:** †Enrique Matagolai Litulumar  
†Esteban Iginoef Limes  
**Godmother:** †Dolores Romolor Lisua

#### His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

**Grandparents:** Theodora Romolor Litulumar  
Angelina Peter Limes  
**Parents:** Mercedes Romolor Litulumar  
Tobias K. Aldan Jr.  
**Father:** Stephen Peter Limes  
**Brothers:** Sammy Lee Litulumar  
Scottie Litulumar  
**Sister:** Gretha Leigh Litulumar  
**Special Friend:** Remedio Ada Tenorio  
**Godparents:** Leonard Ordonez  
Elizabeth Kirby Kaipat  
Emery L. Kaipat  
Edson R. Limes

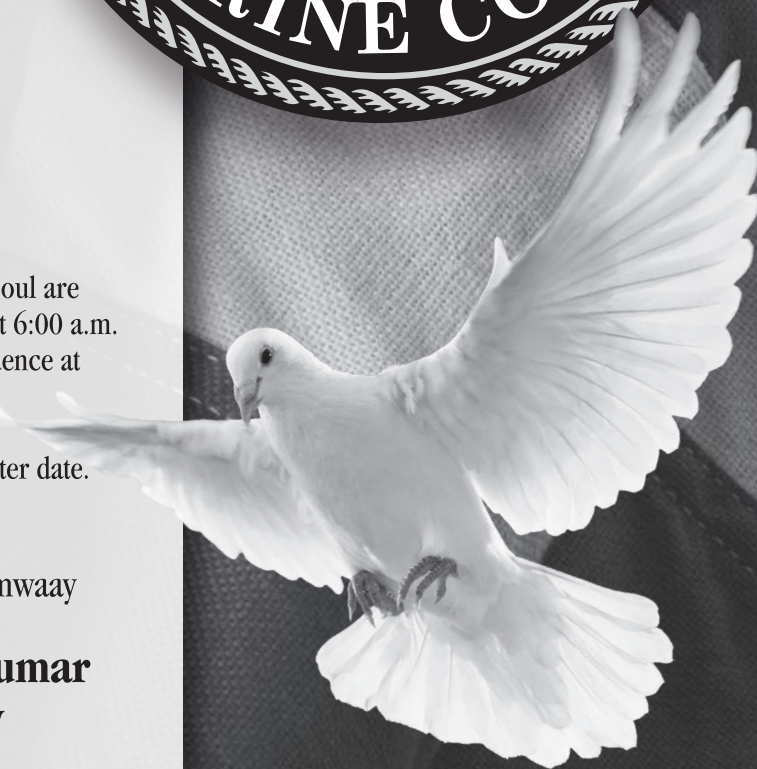
*He will also be missed by his numerous  
uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins,  
relatives and friends.*

Mass of Intentions for the repose of His soul are  
being celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m.  
Holy Rosary is being prayed at their residence at  
Sugar King Estate at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral services will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers,  
Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Olomwaay

**Mercedes Romolor Litulumar  
Children and Family**





# Science & Technology

## Security expert said he accessed plane controls mid-flight

A security researcher told federal agents he was able to hack into air-

craft computer systems mid-flight numerous times through the in-

flight entertainment systems, and at one point he caused a plane he was on to move sideways, according to an FBI agent's affidavit.

Although the claims are still being investigated, the airline involved, United, cast doubt on whether it was possible to control an airplane through the entertainment system, while other experts said such cyber threats should be taken seriously given that airplanes are increasingly connected to the Internet.

The researcher, Chris Roberts, was questioned upon his arrival at the Syracuse, New York, airport April 15. He had suggested on Twitter while on a United Airlines flight from Chicago that he could get the oxygen masks to deploy or

interfere with the cockpit's alert systems, according to the court filing in support of a search warrant for Roberts' laptop and other electronics.

Roberts founded One World Labs, which tries to discover security risks before they are exploited. He had met previously, in February and March, with the FBI to discuss vulnerabilities with in-flight entertainment systems aboard certain aircraft, the affidavit said. During the meetings, Roberts claimed to have compromised the systems 15 to 20 times between 2011 and 2014, using a cable to connect his laptop to an electronics box located beneath passenger seats, the document said.

"He stated that he thereby caused one of the airplane engines to climb resulting in a lateral or sideways movement of the plane during one of these flights," the affidavit said.

Roberts declined to comment Monday when reached at his Denver, Colorado, office. In a statement issued through his attorney, he said his "only interest has been to improve aircraft safety."

"Given the current situation, I've been advised against saying more," said the statement provided by Nate Cardozo, a staff attorney with the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation.

A report by the U.S. Gov-

ernment Accountability Office last month said some commercial aircraft may be vulnerable to hacking over their onboard wireless networks.

"Modern aircraft are increasingly connected to the Internet. This interconnectedness can potentially provide unauthorized remote access to aircraft avionics systems," the report said.

The fact that passengers on flights with in-seat video monitors can shift between television and a map showing the plane's real-time location indicates a link between the flight control and passenger entertainment networks, said Steven Bellovin, a computer science professor at Columbia University. (AP)

## Spotify introduces video, radio service

**NEW YORK (AP)**—While saying that it is still a music company at heart, Spotify says it is expanding its lineup to include podcasts, news radio and video streaming.

The company says it wants to help people create a soundtrack for their day that includes not only music but videos, news-casts and other content.

CEO Daniel Ek said that the new service launches Wednesday in the U.S., U.K., Germany and Sweden.

Spotify offers free streaming music and also a premium service for a monthly fee that lets users listen to music offline and without advertisements. The extra content, from partners such as Comedy Central, BBC and ESPN, will be available for both free and pre-

mium customers.

Spotify enters a competitive market for video streaming that is dominated by Netflix, Amazon.com, and Hulu, but it's getting more crowded of late with the arrival of companies like HBO. But the company says its main focus will continue to be music, and in that sense it's likely to stand apart from the services whose primary product is TV and movie streaming.

In addition to the extra content, Spotify also redesigned its site, adding the "Now start page" that aims to provide a continuous, personalized soundtrack to users all day and all night. This could be energizing tunes for getting ready in the morning, songs without lyrics for concentrating at work, or dance tracks for late Saturday night.

### TECH Q&A

## How to fix a slow video from the Internet

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**Q** : During basketball season I was trying to stream a game, but the action was jerky, as if something were slowing it down. I've been wondering where the bottleneck is.

**My Internet service provider, Comcast, usually provides download speeds of about 25 megabits per second, fast enough for streaming. My Windows Vista PC has plenty of memory, including 3 gigabytes of RAM and a flash memory card, which supplements RAM by using Microsoft's ReadyBoost technology. I clear the cache memory in my Web browser to speed up downloads. What is slowing down my streaming?—Mark Stedman, Afton, Minn.**

**A:** There are several possible causes. First, the ones you can do something about:

If anyone in your home was using the same Comcast Internet connection for streaming audio or video while you were, the streaming speed could have been reduced. Limit simultaneous use of the Internet.

If you're streaming over a Wi-Fi wireless network, you lose some of the speed delivered by your wired Internet connection. Either use a wired connection for streaming, or try to speed up your Wi-Fi by switching the modem-router to another channel, or frequency (see your owner's manual.) Switching channels can eliminate radio interference from neighboring Wi-Fi networks or other electronic devices, such as

microwave ovens.

If your PC is used to play games over the Internet, it may have "hardware acceleration" turned on. Turning it off (for Windows Vista, see [tinyurl.com/mewgi7w](http://tinyurl.com/mewgi7w)) will free up PC processing power and make streaming video play more smoothly.

Here are possible causes of a streaming slowdown that you can't fix:

Comcast's local network capacity is shared by its users, so during peak usage periods your streaming speed may be less than it normally is.

During high traffic periods on the Internet, data congestion can slow video delivery to your PC.

**Q: When I try to install updates for my Adobe Reader software, I get the message "Error 1327. Invalid Drive: H:\ mapped to a user folder." I can't try to solve the problem by uninstalling and reinstalling the Adobe program because it won't uninstall. What should I do?—Marie Berry, Chaska, Minn.**

**A:** An error in your PC's Registry, a database of Windows settings, is preventing the PC from finding Adobe Reader on its C drive. But changing the Registry is risky; any mistakes can cause more problems. Instead, have the PC substitute the correct drive, C, for the incorrect one, H.

If you're using Windows Vista, 7, 8 or 8.1, press the Windows logo key and the R key simultaneously. In the resulting box, type "cmd" (without quotation marks) and press the Enter key. In the next box, type "Subst H: C:" (without quotation marks) and press Enter. Close the box by clicking on the X in the upper right corner.



## In Celebration of Her New Life

# + Rosa Blas Reyes Agulto

of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan was called to her eternal rest on Monday, May 18, 2015 at the age of 83.

*In her new life, she now joins her:*

**Husband:** †Felix Santos Agulto

**Parents:** †Jose Cruz Reyes and Nicholasa Blas Reyes

**Parents In-Law:** †Juan Concepcion Agulto and †Maria Santos Agulto

**Children:** †Felix Jr. Reyes Agulto, †Juan R. Agulto

**Great Grandchild:** †Caleb Acosta

**Brothers:** †Nicholas Blas Reyes, †Francisco Blas Reyes, †Ignacio Camacho, †Antonio Blas Reyes

**Sisters:** †Nicholasa Blas Reyes, †Emelianciana Blas Reyes, †Estefania Reyes Sablan, †Juliana Reyes Lizama

**Brothers/Sisters In-Law:** †Jose Santos Agulto, †Joaquin Santos Agulto, †Candelaria Agulto, †Francisca Agulto & †Sisto B. †Mendiola, Pedro Santos Agulto

*She will always live in the hearts of her:*

**Children:** Juana A. & Jose N. Acosta, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren  
 †Juan & Pacencia Agulto  
 Francisco R. & Elizabeth B. Agulto, children and grandchildren  
 Herman M. Cabrera and children  
 Jacinta R. Agulto  
 Dolores R. Agulto, children and grandchildren  
 Jose R. Agulto and children  
 Maria R. Agulto, children and grandchildren  
 Jesus R. & Ester G. Agulto and children  
 Ramon R. Agulto  
 Antonio R. & Ana C. Agulto, children and grandchildren  
 Carmen R. Agulto  
 Felix Jr. R. Agulto  
 Melissa A. Sablan and daughter  
 Zinna Agulto & Gregorio M. Perez & children  
 Ray S. Masga, Patrick R. Quitugua  
 Dolores S.N. Camacho, Jesus A. & Marilyn Sablan, Mariano C. Lizama

**Reared Children:**

**Sisters and Brothers In-Law:**

She will also be missed by her numerous godchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Daily mass of intentions are offered at 6:00am and 7:00pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Monday, May 25, 2015 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Responso Service will be held at 8:00am, followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

## The Family





## Life & Style

# David Letterman signs off as late-night host

**NEW YORK (AP)**—David Letterman ended his 33-year career as a late-night television host Wednesday, ushered into retirement by four presidents who declared “our long national nightmare is over” and saying there was nothing he could ever do to repay his audience.

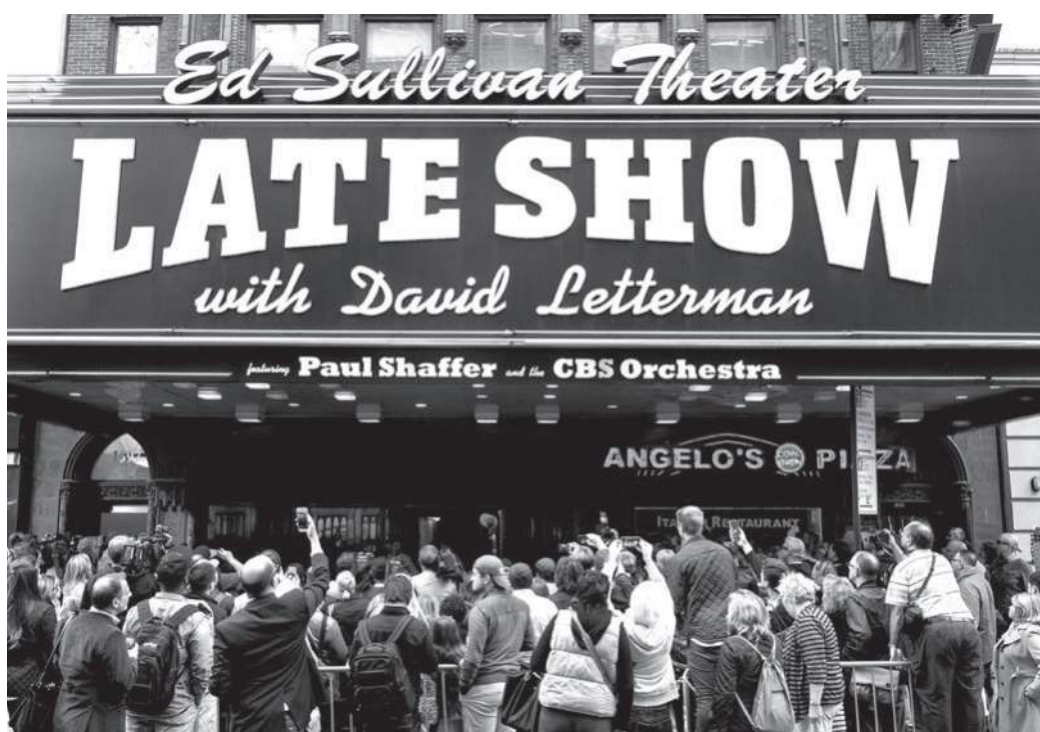
The show ran 17 minutes over the usual hour, much of it because Letterman took the time to thank the people who worked for him. As the tuxedoed Foo Fighters performed “Everlong”—a song they first played on the “Late Show” when Letterman returned after heart surgery in 2000—a long montage of photographs from three decades of television history zipped past on the screen.

“The only thing I have left to do for the last time on a television program (is say) thank you and good night,” he said.

Letterman presided over 6,028 broadcasts on CBS and NBC, the transplanted Hoosier making Top 10 lists and ironic humor staples of television comedy and an influence to a generation of performers. True to his self-deprecating style, he said Stephen Hawking estimated that tenure delivered “about eight minutes of laughter.”

Letterman will be replaced in September by Stephen Colbert, who he endorsed by saying, “I think he’ll do a wonderful job.”

The taped intro of President Barack Obama and former Presidents George Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush referenced President Gerald Ford’s declaration to the country when he took office following the 1974 resignation of Richard Nixon. Letterman sidled up to Obama to say, “you’re just kidding, right?”



Fans wait outside The Ed Sullivan Theater during the last taping of the “Late Show with David Letterman” on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in New York.

Ten stars from Steve Martin to Tina Fey delivered the final Top 10 list of “things I’ve always wanted to say to Dave.” Julia Louis-Dreyfus, with Jerry Seinfeld standing nearby, said, “Thanks for letting me take part in another hugely disappointing series finale.”

No. 1 was Bill Murray: “Dave, I’ll never have the money I owe you.”

Letterman joked in his monologue that he’s been on the air for so long that the hot show when he started was “Keeping Up with the Gabor.”

“You want to know what I’m going to do now that I’m retired?” he said. “By God, I hope to become the new face of Scientology.”

From his start on NBC’s “Late Night” in February 1982, Letterman’s comedy was about more than telling jokes. He at-

tached a camera to a monkey’s back, tossed watermelons off a roof and wore a suit of Alka-Seltzer to plunge into a tank of water. Celebrities used to being fawned over either clicked with his prickly personality or didn’t, and when Cher called him a more profane version of “jerk,” it became a memorable moment.

He shifted to CBS in 1993 when NBC gave the “Tonight” show to Jay Leno instead of Letterman, a slight he never forgot or forgave.

Letterman even began his final monologue Wednesday by joking, “It’s beginning to look like I’m not going to get the ‘Tonight’ show.”

The tricks subsided as Letterman mellowed with age and fatherhood. His audience welcomed him back after a heart bypass, listened as he became

the first late-night host back on the air after the 2001 terrorist attacks and saw him acknowledge

to inappropriately having sex with a subordinate.

“When I screw up now, and Lord knows I’ll be screwing up, I’ll have to go on somebody else’s show to apologize,” Letterman said.

With his monologue and Top 10 list, the final show kept the same format of thousands before them, although he gave no one the pressure of being a guest on the final show. Murray played that part Tuesday night. His last few weeks have been warmly nostalgic, with Letterman entertaining old friends like Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Oprah Winfrey. Anticipating the end, viewers sent Letterman to the top of the late-night ratings the week before last for the first time since Jimmy Fallon took over at “Tonight” and they competed with original telecasts.

Letterman, before saying goodbye, thanked virtually everyone involved with the show

from CBS Corp. Chairman Leslie Moonves to his researchers and crew members.

“It’s so obvious every night and again tonight that they were so much better at their jobs than I am at my job,” he said.

Letterman remained dry-eyed throughout the broadcast, but several audience members who filed out of the Ed Sullivan Theater had tears in their eyes.

“He was guarded but you could tell it was really hard for him,” said John Bernstein, who flew in from Los Angeles to attend the final taping. “You could see his emotion. But I think he’s feeling a lot more than he’s showing.”

Rival Jimmy Kimmel paid tribute to Letterman by not making a fresh ABC show on Wednesday, when he usually competes in the same time slot. Fallon opened his Wednesday monologue by saying: “I want to thank you for watching this on your DVR after you watched Letterman.”

## Michelle Obama offers glimpse of workout routine

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Michelle Obama has finally revealed some of her workout secrets.

The first lady skips rope, does abdominal crunches with a weighted ball and jumps on and off a bench in a White House video released as part of the fifth anniversary celebration of her “Let’s Move” initiative against childhood obesity.

She also chest presses 35-pound dumbbells and kick-boxes with a heavy bag in the brief video, which was recorded in the gym in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door to the White House and blasted out late Tuesday on the

first lady’s Twitter feed.

Mrs. Obama, 51, has been asking the public to use social media to tell her what five things they do to stay healthy.

Celebrities are helping the first lady promote her “GimmeFive” challenge and, this week, she began responding on Twitter to challenges from the public to reveal her five favorite workout songs, ways her family stays active and strategies to minimize stress. She said meditation is one stress reducer.

The video was Mrs. Obama’s answer to President Barack Obama’s video of his five healthy things—and his chal-

lenge to her to do the same.

In his video, the president and Vice President Joe Biden jog along the White House colonnade. The president is also shown jogging up the stairs to Air Force One and holding walking meetings.

“So that’s me. What about you? Give me five FLOTUS-style,” Obama says, using the acronym for “first lady of the United States.”

At the end of her video, Mrs. Obama plugs a related initiative designed to encourage people to drink more water.

“Don’t forget. Always drink up,” she says, before sipping from a glass.

## Mother’s alcoholism poses serious threat to her baby

**DEAR ABBY:** I just realized I’m six weeks pregnant. I have always wanted to start a family and raise children with my fiancé, but I have a big problem. I am an alcoholic and have been struggling with this issue for a few years. I don’t know the effect this could have on my baby, but I know it isn’t good. My fiancé also drinks a lot, and our home situation isn’t the greatest for a child because of it.

What can I do that would be helpful in my circumstances? I don’t want to put my baby’s life at risk. I tried AA in the past, but was unsuccessful. I’m afraid I’m destroying my family before it is started.

TRAINWRECK IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR TRAINWRECK:** You are right to be concerned. If you plan to have this baby, it’s important that you find a gynecologist and quit drinking IMMEDIATELY! If you can’t find the strength to do it for yourself, then do it for the sake of your little one.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

“There is no safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy. Alcohol can cause problems for the developing baby throughout pregnancy, including before a woman knows she is pregnant. Drinking alcohol in the first three months of pregnancy can cause the baby to have abnormal facial features. Growth

and central nervous system problems (e.g., low birth weight, behavioral problems) can occur from drinking alcohol anytime during pregnancy. The baby’s brain is developing throughout pregnancy and can be affected by exposure to alcohol at any time.

“If a woman is drinking alcohol during pregnancy, it is never too late to stop. The sooner a woman stops drinking, the better it will be for both her baby and herself.”

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been with my girlfriend, “Kendra,” for four years. We’re ready to take our relationship to the next level, but I’m starting to have second thoughts because of her mother. To put it simply, she’s not a nice woman, and she doesn’t have any friends. Her husband died a few years ago, which makes her very much alone. Her only social life is Kendra.

Abby, she thinks of me as a threat to their relationship, and she’s trying everything in her power to break us up. She says negative things about me to Kendra and she’s rude to me at all times. She says she will not give us her blessing if we decide to marry.

Because we live only 10 minutes from her and have no possibility of moving farther away, is it possible to have a healthy marriage with such a “cancer” in our lives? Or would our marriage be doomed from the start? Do I stay or do I go?

UNSURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR UNSURE:** Unfortunately, no one can make this decision for you. Much depends upon whether Kendra can recognize how unhealthy her relationship with her mother is and distance herself emotionally. While love can conquer almost everything, unless she can do that, and not allow herself to feel guilty for being happy, marriage to Kendra could be like competing in a marathon with one foot encased in a barrel of cement. I’m not saying don’t do it, but pointing out that if you do, it will be a challenge.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



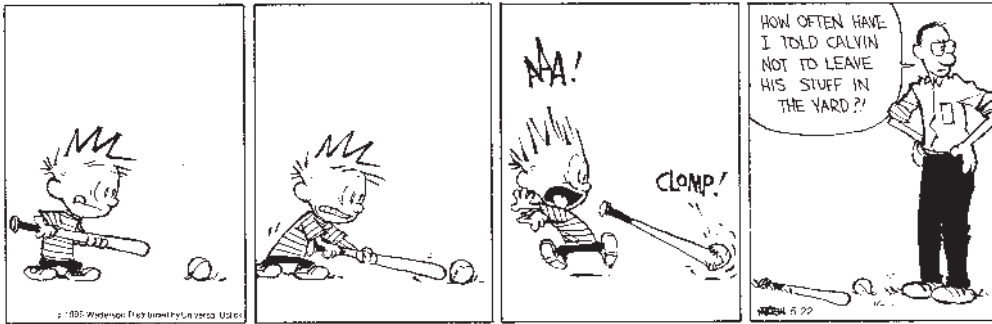
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Hard wood

4 Bottle stopper

8 Remain

12 — Jima

13 Reed instrument

14 Misplace

15 Stats on a perp

17 "My bad"

18 Hits, old-style

19 Pair

21 Raw rock

22 Pomeranian, e.g.

26 "Filthy" money

29 Join together

30 Inseparable

31 Grad

32 More, to Manuel

33 Grown-up nits

34 Office-holders

35 Hen-house invader

36 Moist

37 Serviette

**DOWN**

39 Debtor's letters

40 USNA rank

41 Swamp

45 Spill the beans

48 Astaire specialty

50 Tiny bit

51 Prior nights

52 AAA task

53 Foolish

54 Depend (on)

55 "Monty Python" opener

3 Arizona tribe

4 Hold together

5 Very large

6 Caviar, essentially

7 Vessels for boiling

8 John B. of song

9 As well

10 Cleo's slayer

11 Undeniably

16 Ram-page

20 Bankroll

23 Porter's "Let's —"

24 Formerly

25 Will of "The Waltons"

26 Reclined

27 Radius' neighbor

28 Zodiac border

29 Tussaud's material

32 Lab creation?

33 Michelle's predecessor

35 Half a sawbuck

36 "Give a hoot, don't pollute!" owl

38 Skewered entree

39 Urge

42 Con

43 Highlander

44 Wields a needle

45 Auction action

46 Singer Rawls

47 \$ dispenser

49 Rd.

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

W	E	B	B	G	R	A	F	D	E	B
A	X	L	E	L	I	S	A	O	S	U
S	P	O	T	L	I	G	H	T	A	L
H	O	T	T	U	B	A	W	F	U	L
E	X	D	E	L	I	I				
S	C	A	R	E	R	A	O	G	R	E
O	I	L	F	A	S	H	I	S		
B	A	L	D	E	W	E	S	T	O	R
R	E	B	E	L	W	E				
S	W	I	N	E	A	E	R	A	T	E
L	A	G	H	O	L	D	T	I	G	H
U	G	H	A	W	E	D	A	R	I	A
M	E	T	N	E	T	S	L	A	S	S

**Yesterday's answer 5-22**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Novak Djokovic, 28; Apolo Ohno, 33; Ginnifer Goodwin, 37; Naomi Campbell, 45.

**Happy Birthday:** It's time to let go of the situations that are holding you back. A new beginning will give you a new lease on life. Drawing from past experiences will help you move forward with greater confidence as well as encourage you to set the boundaries that will ensure your success. Don't allow anyone to limit what you can do. Your numbers are 1, 12, 23, 26, 32, 36, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep an open mind and a forgiving attitude. Participating in something that allows you to use your imagination will do you a world of good. You'll be tempted to try something new. Look into vocational options thoroughly before you proceed. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take a moment to reevaluate the way you look, how you feel and the changes you want to make in order to please yourself. Spend time with someone who encourages you and supports your decisions. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You'll have trouble settling into a routine. Inconsistency will hold you back if you aren't careful. To avoid criticism, make up your mind and follow the path of your choice. Ulterior motives will be what prompts someone to pressure you. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't share personal information with anyone. You will be taken advantage of or put in a vulnerable position if you aren't discreet. Do

whatever it takes to avoid disagreements with peers, colleagues or a personal partner. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** What you offer others will be well received, but don't let your generosity lead to greater demands. It's nice to help out, but it's time to put yourself first. Don't feel guilty about spending time or money upgrading, updating or rewarding your efforts with a vacation. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Tread carefully when dealing with jealous peers or people who want to control or limit what you can do. Do what makes you happy and engage in pastimes that bring you closer to someone you love. Make wise choices. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Speak up. Don't sit back and let someone get away with putting you down or making you feel bad. Use your intelligence and bring about whatever change is required to distance yourself from negative people. Learn from past experience. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let your emotions stand between you and getting what you want. Concentrate on making personal improvements that will boost your confidence and raise your standard of living. Don't be afraid to stand out. Show how unique you can be. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can wheel and deal with confidence today. Work on home-improvement projects, collecting debts and taking care of pending legal matters. A romantic plan will enrich your personal life and lead to a stable and secure future. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Anxiety, stress and tension will overpower you if you allow someone to take advantage of you. Do your own thing and refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. It's up to you to do what's best for you. Focus on your needs. ★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Hop to it and get as much done on your to-do list as possible. Your energy is high and your intellect is sharp. You can achieve your goals and impress onlookers with your ability to bring about positive changes. ★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Pamper yourself. Shop for something that will encourage you to follow a dream or improve your appearance. Making arrangements to do something special with a close friend, lover or youngster will enhance your relationship and your personal life. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are intelligent, progressive and attentive. You are talkative and impressive.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9				4				
	6		3	7		8				
			4	1						
	3	2				7	5			
	7	8				1	2			
			1	8						
	8		7	6		3				
		4				6				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	9	5	7	2	8	4	3
5	8	7	4	6	3	1	2	9
2	3	4	9	1	8	5	6	7
9	2	6	1	8	7	3	5	4
4	7	8	3	5	6	9	1	2
3	5	1	2	9	4	7	8	6
7	9	5	6	4	1	2	3	8
8	6	2	7	3	5	4	9	1
1	4	3	8	2	9	6	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★

3/2

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BASQUE COOKING

Solution: 8 letters

C A V E S S A P A T O L O S A  
H R B E A N S P A T E N E E R  
I D O T R E D I C O O G R A T  
S O I Q M M A S P R A R A F I  
T N S S U T O I R S O B O O C  
O O C T H E P U U E R M B O H  
R S U U E E T A T E V A O D O  
R T R N R W S T A H L L M E K  
A I E A P N X M E E E E E E L E  
D A D U I A N T C S C G L L S  
A E O H K I P C A H H U E I A  
J S C O A E B R O L E M T R E  
A R L P I S T O I A O E E G P  
U I S A X T O K O K L S S A S  
C H E R R I E S F R A N C E T

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5/22

Artichokes, Beans, Boar, Bream, Caves, Cheese, Cherries, Chistorra, Cider, Coal, Croquettes, Cuajada, Cured, Dishes, Donostia, Ebros, Elvers, France, Grilled, Kokotxas, Lamb, Leche, Legumes, Meat, Omelet, Paprika, Pate, Peas, Piperade, Pisto, Sausages, Seafood, Soup, Spain, Stew, Talos, Tapas, Tolosa, Toro, Tuna, Turrón, Txakoli, Urchins, Vermouth

Yesterday's Answer: Friends

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase on ire at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com) or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

## STUMPED?

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Must have at least five years' experience  
Interested applicants, please call  
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DAY & NIGHT

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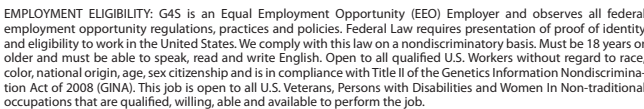
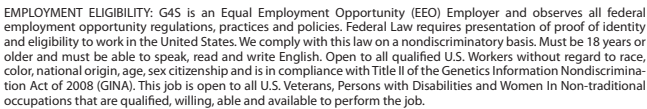
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• Strong Business & People Management Skills  
**Customer Service Representative (2 Guam positions, 1 Saipan position)**  
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• Strong organizational skills including time management and delegation  
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• Excellent written and oral communication skills  
• P&C Insurance License Required (Or held within last 2 years) for Guam positions  
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• Minimum 2 - 3 years accounting experience  
• Excellent fundamental accounting skills; hands on experience with general ledger reconciliations  
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Closing Date: 26-May-2015  
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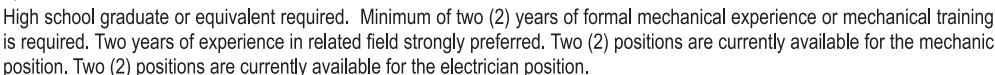
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# Smith, James lead Cavs past Hawks in Game 1



**ATLANTA (AP)—**J.R. Smith knocked down a tough 3-pointer, then another. Turning toward the fans, their heckling transformed to groans, he blew off his right index finger and motioned toward his side, like he was holstering his pistol.

Yep, Smith was that hot.

While LeBron James led Cleveland with 31 points, it was Smith who ignited the Cavaliers in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals. He made eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points in a 97-89 victory over the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

"When he gets hot," Cleveland coach David Blatt marveled, "he gets smoking hot."

Intent on bringing Cleveland its first NBA title, James sealed the victory with a soaring dunk in the final minute.

For the Hawks, it was the second straight series in which they've lost the opening game at home. Cleveland will look to take command of the series in Game 2 Friday night.

Making matters worse for Atlanta, DeMarre Carroll went down with a knee injury driving to the basket with 4:59 remaining. He was helped to the locker room, not putting any weight on his left leg, and will undergo an MRI on Thursday to determine the seriousness.

Besides being the main defender on James, Carroll had been the Hawks' leading scorer in the playoffs. He was averaging more than 17 points coming into Atlanta's first conference final.

"DeMarre is a complete player," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He has a big impact at both ends of the court."

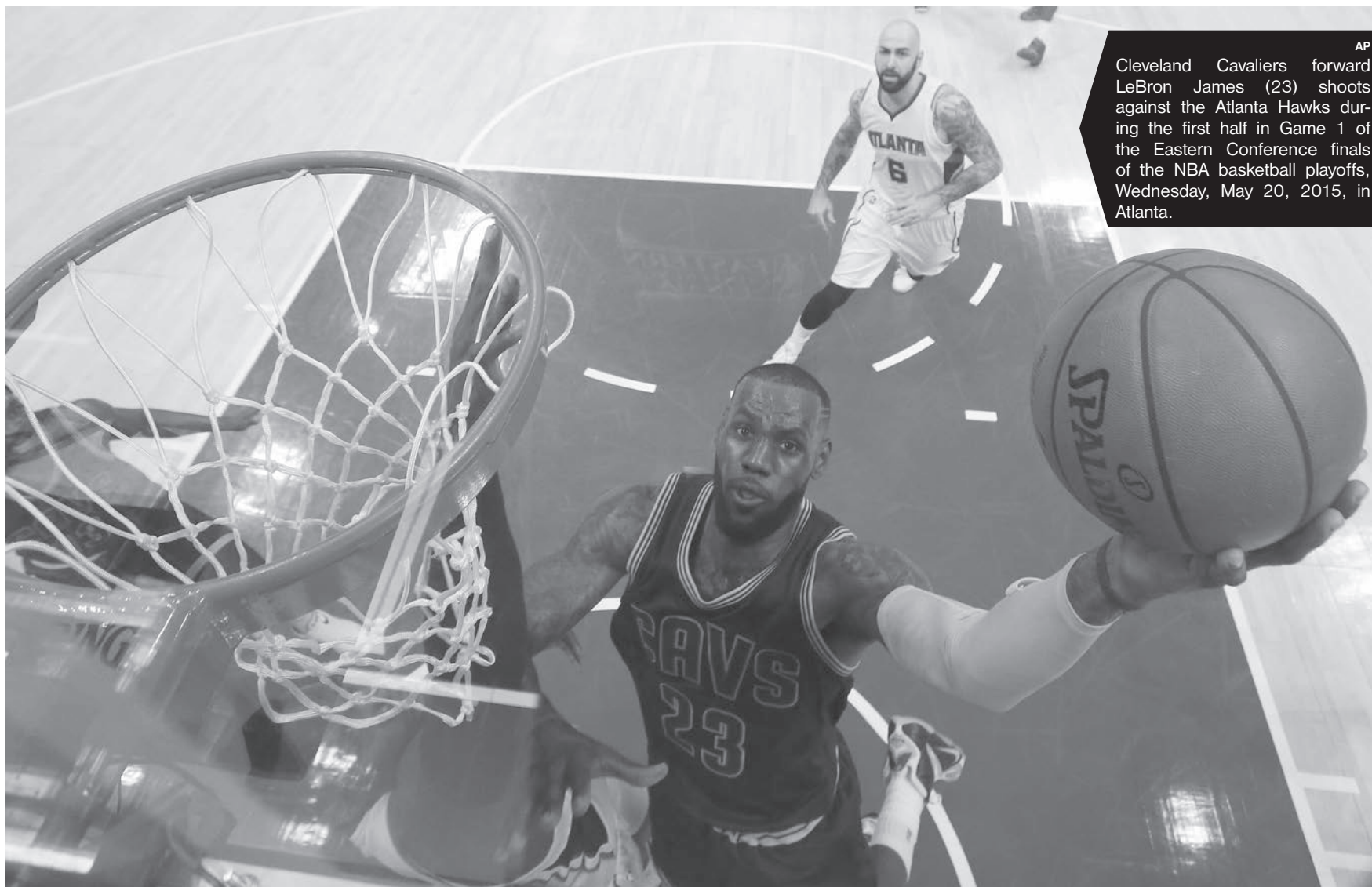
Jeff Teague led Atlanta with 27 points. But Atlanta didn't produce its usual balanced scoring, as two starters - Kyle Korver and Carroll - failed to reach double figures.

With Smith doing most of the damage, Cleveland outscored the Hawks 22-4 over the final 5 minutes of the third quarter and the first 2 minutes of the fourth. During that span, he made five 3-pointers and another jumper from just inside the arc, as well as throwing up a lob that Tristan Thompson dunked.

Smith has been a huge addition for the Cavaliers since he was acquired in January as part of a three-team trade with New York and Oklahoma City. A player once known for his selfishness, he had learned to work with within the confines of a team led by James.

When the Cavaliers really needed Smith in Game 1, he seemed to make every shot.

"Once I start shooting," Smith said, "everybody keeps telling me to keep shooting."



AP  
Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots against the Atlanta Hawks during the first half in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs, Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Atlanta.

Cleveland scored the first 11 points of the final period - all but two on 3s by Smith - for its biggest lead, 85-67.

Carroll's injury silenced the raucous crowd and would be a tough blow for the Hawks to overcome. While he was being taken off, James came over to say a few words and pat the injured player on the head.

"We're all a brotherhood," James said. "You don't want anybody to get hurt like that."

Even without Carroll, Atlanta closed to 91-87 with about a minute remaining. But James got loose from Paul Millsap out near the arc, took off down the lane uncontested and slammed home a dunk that finished off the Hawks.

Having made their deepest run in the playoffs since 1970, the Hawks carried that momentum to a nine-point lead in the opening quarter. Atlanta shot 61 percent and James went to the bench with about 3 minutes remaining in the period after picking up his second foul.

Cleveland's dominance on the boards kept Atlanta from pulling away. Cleveland out-rebounded the Hawks 15-6 over the first 12 minutes, actually yanking down more offensive rebounds (seven) than Atlanta's total output.

James returned in the second quarter and began to take control of the Cleveland offense. He scored 14 points in the period on 7-of-9 shooting, taking advantage when the Hawks tried to bait him into a third foul by guarding him with smaller players.

The game was tied 51-all at

the half.

The Cavaliers finished with a 49-37 rebounding edge, exposing Atlanta's major weakness during the regular season.

Timofey Mozgov led with 11 rebounds, while Thompson

chipped in with 10.

James also had eight rebounds, giving the Cavaliers three players who had more than anyone on the Hawks. Millsap, Kyle Korver and Al Horford each had seven for Atlanta.

This was the first time in franchise history that Cleveland won Game 1 of a playoff series on the road. The Cavs had been 0-14. ... Thompson had 14 points, while Mozgov and Iman

Shumpert added 10 apiece.

Horford had 16 points, Millsap 13 and Kent Bazemore 10, including a massive dunk in the second half. ... Bazemore figures to get even more playing time if Carroll is sidelined.

## SIDEBAR

### With Howard hobbled, Rockets to regroup vs Warriors

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—**James Harden and the Houston Rockets spent half the season finding ways to win without Dwight Howard and another chunk of the schedule with the center limited because of an injury.

Now they might have to do it again to save their season.

Howard is unsure whether he can play against the Golden State Warriors in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals Thursday night because of a sprained left knee, leaving the already short-handed Rockets searching for answers to replace him. The Warriors won Game 1 on Wednesday night.

"We've been through it this year," Harden said. "Those guys are ready to come in and contribute. Hopefully, big fella can get his body healthy and can go out there and help us."

Howard sat out practice Wednesday at Oracle Arena after an MRI confirmed the injury. He said his knee, which was injured in a collision with teammate Josh Smith in the first quarter of Game 1, was still in pain.

The team officially listed Howard as questionable on its medical report. But Howard, who missed 41 games this sea-

son mostly due to a right knee injury, said he'll listen to his body before deciding when to return.

"It's a long series. We're not going to lose our minds because we lost in the first game," Howard said.

Even when Howard played, Houston had a hard time containing Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and the undersized lineups the Warriors threw on the floor. Golden State rallied from 16 points down in the second quarter behind a lineup full of shooters and held off Harden and the Rockets 110-106.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr put 6-foot-7 Draymond Green - the runner-up for NBA Defensive Player of the Year - on Howard and often played Harrison Barnes, Shaun Livingston, Curry and Thompson with him. Kerr went to the small-ball lineup again to help Golden State pull away in the fourth quarter after Howard departed for good.

Until the Rockets find a way to stop the strategy, count on the Warriors doing more of the same.

"It's always fun guarding those bigger guys. It's a challenge and I enjoy challenges," Green said. "On the offensive end, when you try to keep your

big in against our small lineup, it's rough."

Here are some other things to watch in Game 2:

**REPLACING HOWARD:** If Howard can't play, the Rockets could turn to rookie Clint Capela as their starting center. The Swiss-born Capela, who also played in the NBA Development League this season, had nine points on 4-of-4 shooting and four rebounds in 13 minutes in Game 1.

**THREE BALL:** Both teams rely heavily on 3-point shooting, though neither shot particularly well in the series opener. The difference? Golden State got off more shots. Houston was 8 for 22 from beyond the arc, while the Warriors were 10 for 29. Curry led the way with a 6-for-11 performance from deep to finish with 34 points.

**BENCH PRODUCTION:** Depth could be an issue for the Rockets, who are already without point guard Patrick Beverley (left wrist injury) and starting forward Donatas Motiejunas (back) for the season. More scoring off the bench would certainly ease the burden on Harden and the starters. Corey Brewer (9 points), Terrence Jones (5 points) and Pablo Prigioni (4 points), who

played pivotal roles in Houston's victory over the Clippers in the second round, had mostly quiet Game 1 showings. The Warriors got a huge lift from Livingston (18 points).

**CORRALLING CURRY:** The only person who might've contained Curry in the opener was his 2-year-old daughter, Riley, who stole the spotlight from the NBA MVP during his postgame news conference. Jason Terry and Harden struggled to chase Curry, who got wide open quite a few times, including twice under the rim for easy layups in the fourth. The Rockets will need to do something to slow down Curry - perhaps putting forward Trevor Ariza on him more - or they could be in trouble.

**SHOOTING SMITH:** The Warriors seemed content to let Josh Smith shoot 3s and mid-range jumpers in the opener. The Rockets power forward was 6 for 16 from the floor, including 2 for 6 from 3-point range. Rockets coach Kevin McHale said he'd like to see his team produce more points in the paint, where Houston outscored the Warriors 52 to 50. Getting Smith to attack Golden State's undersized forwards might be a good start.



# Nationals beat Yankees after Harper ejection



**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Cleanup hitter

Bryce Harper and manager Matt Williams were both ejected in the third inning, but Washington came back to beat New York on Denard Span's tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh.

Harper, the National League Player of the Week twice in a row, entered with 10 homers in his previous 12 games.

In his second at-bat, he got into an argument with plate umpire Marvin Hudson after a first-pitch strike call and was tossed. Williams then came out of the dugout to move Harper out of the way and get in Hudson's face, leading to the second ejection.

After getting kicked out, Williams went over and kicked dirt on home plate — with one swipe by each foot.

Span drove in an unearned, go-ahead run with a bases-loaded single off reliever Justin Wilson.

## Astros 6, Athletics 1

In Houston, Evan Gattis hit a two-run homer to help Dallas Keuchel earn his eighth straight win as the Houston Astros kept rolling with a 6-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday.

The Astros improved to an American League-best 27-14, giving them the best start

Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper (34) is ejected by home plate umpire Marvin Hudson during the third inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Nationals Park, Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Washington. Nationals manager Matt Williams was later ejected by Hudson.

through 41 games in franchise history. Sitting atop the AL West, this is the latest the Astros have led their division since May 22, 2004.

Keuchel (6-0) allowed six hits and no earned runs in seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.67. He's won eight straight decisions dating back to last year.

## Cardinals 9, Mets 0

In New York, Matt Adams hit a long three-run homer and Jason Heyward also connected as St. Louis enjoyed a second consecutive offensive outburst, besting Bartolo Colon in a rout of New York.

Matt Holliday and Kolten Wong both had three hits to back Carlos Martinez (4-2), who pitched 6 1-3 innings of four-hit ball in ending his two-game skid. Following a 10-2 victory Tuesday night, the Cardinals improved the best record in the majors to 27-13.

Pitching four days before his 42nd birthday, Colon (6-3) finally began to show his age.



## Rangers 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Phil Klein allowed one run in his first major league start and Robinson Chirinos hit a solo homer as Texas beat Boston.

The Rangers took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on a sacrifice fly by Elvis Andrus after singles by Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland. They made it 2-0 in the third when Chirinos hit his fourth homer of the season.

Klein, called up Wednesday from Triple-A Round Rock, allowed four hits through four scoreless innings before giving up a leadoff homer to Xander Bogaerts, his second of the year, in the fifth.

## Angels 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Marc Krauss hit a go-ahead two-run double in the

seventh inning as Los Angeles rallied to beat Toronto for its seventh win in nine games.

Mike Trout hit a solo homer and Jered Weaver pitched seven innings to win his third straight start. The Angels have rallied to win in five of their past six victories.

Krauss's key hit came one inning after he replaced Albert Pujols, who left after being hit on the left hand by a pitch from Toronto's Drew Hutchison. The Angels said Pujols suffered a contusion.

Weaver (3-4) allowed three runs and four hits.

## Braves 2, Rays 1

In Atlanta, Williams Perez gave up one run over five innings in his first major league start and

fellow rookie Todd Cunningham drove in the tiebreaking run with a groundout as Atlanta beat Tampa Bay.

The Braves bullpen threw four scoreless innings to close out the win for Brandon Cunniff (2-0). Jason Grilli picked up his 12th save to ensure a split of the two-game series.

## Diamondbacks 6, Marlins 1

In Miami, Chase Anderson allowed four hits in a career-high eight innings as Arizona dealt Miami its sixth straight loss.

David Peralta drove in three runs and A.J. Pollock had three of the Diamondbacks' six stolen bases. He had three hits and scored four times.

Anderson (1-1) picked up his

first win of the season in eight starts. He walked one while striking out two. Anderson pitched into the ninth and left the bases loaded with nobody out, but Brad Ziegler was able to finish off the Marlins allowing just one run to score.

## Mariners 4, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Roenis Elias took a four-hitter into the eighth inning and Justin Ruggiano homered as Seattle beat Chen Wei-yin and Baltimore.

Elias (1-1) allowed one run, six hits and no walks in 7 2-3 innings. The left-hander did not permit a runner past first base until the seventh inning and at one point retired 10 in a row.

Although Elias didn't give up more than three runs in any of his previous four starts this season, the Mariners scored only six runs while he was in the game.

## Tigers 5, Brewers 2

In Detroit, Nick Castellanos hit a bases-loaded triple with two out in the eighth inning to lift Detroit to a victory.

The Tigers avoided a sweep in the three-game series thanks to a rally in their final at-bat. With two out, nobody on and the score tied at 2, Jonathan Broxton (1-1) allowed consecutive singles by J.D. Martinez and Yoenis Cespedes and a walk to Tyler Collins.



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# Goodell wants to hear directly from Brady in appeal

**SAIPAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday it's his responsibility to hear directly from New England quarterback Tom Brady in his appeal of his four-game suspension in the deflated footballs case.

Goodell said he has not had time to study a request from the players' union that he recuse himself from the appeal because he has been focused on the spring owners meetings that

concluded Wednesday.

He said he would study the request when he returned to New York but added that unless there is a factor that he is unaware of he will likely hear the case.

"It's my job here to make sure we're doing everything to protect the integrity of the game, protect our policies, protect our procedures," Goodell said. "We have a process that has been negotiated with the union that has been in place for decades. It's my responsibility and it's something that we've had in place

for a long time."

Goodell said no date has been set for the appeal.

The CBA reached in 2011 to end the lockout gave Goodell the right to hear the appeal; only the commis-

sioner can punish players for conduct detrimental to the league. But the NFL Players Association claims if he delegates his authority to discipline players, it's invalid, and if he handles it himself,

he is no longer impartial.

When NFL executive vice president Troy Vincent suspended Brady for the first four games of the 2015 season, he cited Brady's lack of cooperation in refusing to turn over his cell-

phone records as one of the reasons for the hefty punishment.

Goodell said he is open to seeing those records during the appeal and that could play a role in a possible reduction of the suspension for Brady's role in the use of underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts.

"I look forward to hearing directly from Tom if there's new information or information that can be helpful to us in getting this right," Goodell said. "I want to hear directly from Tom in that."

A four-time Super Bowl champion and the face of the most successful NFL franchise of this century, Brady was found in the investigation conducted by attorney Ted Wells - who was hired by the league - to be "at least generally aware" of a scheme to illegally deflate footballs used in the conference title game.

Goodell said it is difficult to suspend anyone but that the integrity of the league is paramount.

## SBA holds May Masters

Saipan Bowling Association will hold the 33rd CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Friday's competition will start with a registration at 1:30pm. Up next is the three-game qualifier for singles event at 2pm, followed by the three-game doubles contest at 4:15. The 6:30pm slot is for the team event, while extra games for the three events will be played beginning at 9:15pm.

The same order of events will be implemented this Saturday, but start time will be earlier at 9:15am for singles, 11:30am for doubles, and 2pm for team. Once the qualifying games are completed, SBA will have the Women's Masters in the evening. Interested players have only until May 23, 5pm to register and the competition will only push through if 12 bowlers sign up.

The Men's Masters, on the other hand, will be held this Sunday, starting at 9am. Both

competitions will feature 12 games and the player (in each division) with the highest pin-falls will be declared the winner.

Registration fees for the various events are as follows: \$30 for men's singles, doubles/team events and \$25 for women's; \$10 All Events (men's and women's); \$50 for Men's Masters; and \$40 for Women's Masters.

Alex Castro and Lori Terre are the defending Men's and Women's Masters champions. Castro also took the doubles event win with Robert Talavera, who topped the All Events, while Raul Dimapit ruled the singles. In the women's division, Gloria Omechelang prevailed in the All Events and doubles (with Tess Fabie), while Diana Camacho secured the singles victory.

This year's May Masters is supported by Budweiser/MAR-PAC, Kanoa Resort, IT&E, and JET Holdings. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



## Cockfighting fundraiser benefits foundation



JON PEREZ

Public Safety Foundation president Chris Leon Guerrero, fourth left, receives the check from Saipan Cockpit Arena co-operator Mike Cruz, third right in yesterday's donation presentation at the Gentle Brook Café and Restaurant. Others in photo are, from left, Baybie Hocog, Pate Liwag, Querlane Blas, and Patrick Arriola.

A 4-cock derby was held last week at the Saipan Cockpit Arena with organizers donating part of the proceeds to the Public Safety Foundation.

Mike Cruz, who co-operates the arena with Nick Sablan, presented a check worth more than \$3,000 to PSF president and former Saipan Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero yesterday in a simple ceremony held at the Gentle Brook Café & Restaurant at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Pate Liwag accompanied Cruz during the donation presentation, while PSF secretary/treasurer Querlane Blas, staff Baybie Hocog, and Public Safe-

ty Awareness Month chairman Patrick Arriola were also present to receive the check.

Cruz, who is also a board director of the FilTaga Golf Association, said the donation is the local cockfighting group's way of giving back to the community.

"We held a 4-cock derby with 45 entries. We get 35 percent of the total proceeds and that is what we gave to PSF. This is the local cockfighting group's way of helping foundations that promotes public safety," added Cruz.

Leon Guerrero thanked Cruz and the cockfighting group for the donation, adding that the money would help PSF with its

various activities.

"PSF just celebrated its first year. It was established to assist the Department of Public Safety with various projects due to budget constraints. We are thankful for generous donors like Mr. Mike Cruz and the local cockfighting group," said Leon Guerrero.

"A lot of businesses are huge contributors and we are always thankful for the money they donate."

PSF was established last year as a conduit in order to solicit assistance from businesses and other private groups and help implement projects by DPS, which often encounter budget constraints. **(Jon Perez)**

## LOPEZ

From Page 32

draw, swept Japan's Yusuke Miyai and Rintaro Oka to force a semis tiff against No. 4 seeds Tomohiro Masabayashi and Kenyo Yamada. The fourth-ranked Yamada and Masabayashi barged into the semis after ousting Chinese-Taipei's Yu-Hsiang Su and Zheng Zhang, 6-3, 6-3, in the other quarterfinals match at the top half of the bracket.

At the lower half, the second-ranked pair of Singapore's Shaheed Alam and Sherwin Foo beat Japan's

Shinji Hazawa and James Kent Trotter, 1-6, 6-2, 10-6, to set a semis encounter with Japan's Rimpei Kawakami and Kazuku Shimizu, who knocked out Singapore's Enzo Chua and Germany's Marvin Bockers, 6-3, 6-1.

In the singles event, the top-ranked Lam got the boot from the unseeded Shimizu, who eked out a 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (4) victory in their second round match.

Joining Shimizu in the quarterfinals were Trotter, Masabayashi, Alam, Kawakami, Delaney, South Korea's Yohan Sung, and Japan's Shinji Hazawa.

with the hopes of also fostering camaraderie to everyone. Good luck to all of you."

Dangol was the meet's first gold medalist posting 2.79 meters in the long jump. Her mark was just short of the 2.83m she registered during the qualifiers.

Savita Sikkell, Dangol's Brilliant Star teammate, finished second with 2.78m that was

## CONSOLATION DRAW

The CNMI's Carol Lee topped the consolation draw in the girls singles. She drew a bye in the first round and defeated Julia Ishikawa, 4-0, 4-0 and Isabel Heras, 4-0, 4-2, to rule the all-CNMI consolation bracket. Ishikawa advanced after a 4-2, 6-5 (8) win over Tania Tan, while Heras prevailed against Ami Tsukagoshi, 5-2, 4-0 and Malika Miyawaki, 4-1, 4-2. Miyawaki won over Mimi Sakano, 4-2, 5-3.

In the boys division, Hong Kong's Fabien Calloud was the winner after downing the CNMI's Luther Lizama, 4-2, 4-0, and Hong Kong's Denton Ho, 5-4 (3), 3-5, 10-8.

better than her 2.70m qualifying mark, while Whispering Palms' Soarin Oh settled for the bronze with a distance of 2.73m, which was a big improvement from the 1.90m she recorded in the preliminaries.

The 60m and 100m runs, softball throw, shot put, and discus throw were the other events scheduled yesterday and results were unavailable at press time.

## CNMI

From Page 32

yesterday at 5pm (7pm Saipan time).

Although the CNMI bets gave up too many goals to North Korea, the former managed to hold its ground early against its much favored opponents. North Korea did not make it to the board until the 12th minute off a goal from defender Kwak Un Sim. In its 0-15 loss to China, the CNMI gave up the first goal of the game right in the second minute.

"The girls played bravely today. North Korea is a tough opponent. It had bigger and taller players compared to ours, but the girls continued to play hard and gave all they got," team manager Angie Ito said in a message posted on the squad's unofficial website.

The CNMI used 10 of its starters against China in its match versus North Korea. Toremey Diaz made her second start and was joined by Jerlyn Castillo, Princess Alcantara,

Samantha Manacop, Jobelle Tabuena, Lyka and Angelica Sally, Guinevere Borja, Katrina Costales, Erica Santiago, and Anela Duenas. Grace Choi, Leisha Sally, Katherine Magat, Francesca Bucalig, and Kyla Tuazon were the substitutes.

Meanwhile, after Kwak's goal, North Korea went on to knock in nine more in the first half and then seven in the second. Forward Kim Yun Ok led North Korea with her five goals, while fellow forward Kim Il Sim contributed four. Kwak finished the match with a hat-trick, while defenders Ri Kum Hyang and Jong Hyo Yon and forwards Kim Ryu Song and Jo Son Mi added one goal each. North Korea got an own goal in the first half.

In other results, South Korea and Japan bagged the two semis berths in Group A with the former topping the pool with its 3-0-0 record. Japan ended up with 2-0-1 card after eliminating Chinese-Taipei yesterday, 7-1, while South Korea kept its perfect mark following a 7-0 victory over Guam.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	22	19	.537	—
Tampa Bay	22	19	.537	—
Boston	19	21	.475	2½
Baltimore	17	20	.459	3
Toronto	18	24	.429	4½
Central Division				
Kansas City	26	14	.650	—
Detroit	24	17	.585	2½
Minnesota	23	17	.575	3
Chicago	18	19	.486	6½
Cleveland	16	23	.410	9½
West Division				
Houston	27	14	.659	—
Los Angeles	21	19	.525	5½
Seattle	18	21	.462	8
Texas	17	23	.425	9½
Oakland	14	28	.333	13½

### NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	24	17	.585	—
New York	23	18	.561	1
Atlanta	19	20	.487	4
Philadelphia	18	24	.429	6½
Miami	16	25	.390	8
Central Division				
St. Louis	27	13	.675	—
Chicago	22	17	.564	4½
Cincinnati	18	22	.450	9
Pittsburgh	18	22	.450	9
Milwaukee	15	26	.366	12½

West Division				
Los Angeles	24	15	.615	—
San Francisco	22	18	.550	2½
San Diego	20	21	.488	5
Arizona	18	21	.462	6
Colorado	14	23	.378	9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOCAL SCORES

#### BELAU SOFTBALL STANDINGS Men

	W	L
Brotherhood	5	1
Sufa	5	2
Peleliu	4	2
City Boys	4	3
IP&E	3	2
USA Masters	3	3
Ngararrd	2	4
Mommy Charo	1	5
Big Legals	0	5

Women		
Sakude	7	0
GSM Babes	6	1
Chagi Norf	3	4
Rookies	2	5
Just For Fun	2	5
Ysei Ysei	1	6



# Blue Haus, Armatech gain semis seats

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

Blue Haus and Armatech outclassed their playoff foes to march into the semifinals of their respective divisions in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League.

In the U20 division match, Blue Haus eked out a 76-75 win over the Ol'Aces last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to join the Sonics and Armatech in the semifinals. The Ol'Aces and Gilas will fight for the fourth and last semis slot tonight.

Blue Haus won by only a point after throwing careless inbound passes in the closing seconds of the game. The lead once stood at 7 points, 76-69, just 11.9 seconds left in the game, after Shane Deleon Guerrero countered the triple of the Ol'Aces' Karlo De Leon with a quick layup off a pitch from Ignacio Borja. De Leon retaliated with another 3-point attempt and missed, but Allen Yu was there for the putback, cutting the lead to 5, 71-76, 9.7 seconds remaining on the clock.



Dixon Kwon then went for the inbound from the baseline, but his pass was read by Jesse Santos, who hurriedly unloaded a point-blank shot to bring the deficit down to 3, 73-76, with 3 seconds left in the game. Kwon made the same miscue, paving the way for another Santos inside basket that brought the Ol'Aces within one, 75-76, with .09 of a second left in the fourth canto.

Neither team sued for time so the game continued with Kwon committing another errant inbound pass. Fortunately, he threw a strong pass with the ball heading past midcourt and the Ol'Aces' Mike Muna picking it up and throwing up a prayer, which was not answered as his attempt was way too short. Before Muna went for the loose ball, Ol'Aces coaches Elias Rangamar and Preston Basa shouted from the bench, telling the former to let the ball go. Had Muna let the ball rolled to the sideline, the Ol'Aces would still have gotten the possession and have a better chance of pulling up for the game-winning basket as they would have inbounded the ball at the baseline.

Kwon made up for his late booboos by top-scoring for Blue Haus with his 19 points. Three other Blue Haus players finished in twin digits with Deleon Guerrero adding 18 and Borja and Prince Factor chipping in 16 and 12, respectively. Jesse Santos had 16 to lead the Ol'Aces.

Meanwhile, the depleted Armatech crew pulled off a 67-63 victory over Graphics/Star 6 to notch the third semis berth in the Masters division and join early qualifiers Blue Haus and LBT Appraisal to the next round.

Yosh Gabaldon, Ferdie Tobias, and Haejun Park stepped up in the absence of James Abuy, Martin Moreno, and Bruce Berlin to eliminate Graphics/Star 6. The trio combined for more than half of Armatech's total output with Gabaldon scoring 22 and Tobias and Park contributing 13 each.

Gabaldon and company knocked in most of their baskets in the second and third periods, giving Armatech enough cushion against the fourth-quarter fightback of Graphics/Star 6.

With Armatech now in the semis, Auto Motion and the Ol'Aces are left to duel for

the final semis seat tonight at 6:30pm.

## First Game

**Armatech 67**—Gabaldon 22, Park 13, Tobias 13, Malasarte 8, Gatdula 5, Poquiz 4, Montano 2.

**Graphics/Star 6 63**—Gonzales 13, Abadilla 12, S. Ebuon 9, Dela Cruz 8, Pablo 8, Tibayan 7, Garcia 4, Babauta 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-14, 37-25, 54-44, 67-63.

## Second Game

**Blue Haus 76**—Kwon 19, Deleon Guerrero 18, Borja 16, Factor 12, Malonzo 6, Feria 3, Castro 2.

**Ol'Aces 75**—Je. Santos 16, De Leon 13, Jo. Santos 10, Yu 6, Jones 6, Magofina, Moses 6, Nakashima 6, Muna 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-8, 32-34, 54-48, 76-75.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Mike Muna, center, has nowhere to go as he is hemmed in by Blue Haus' Shane Deleon Guerrero, left, and Ignacio Borja during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the U20 division of the UFO caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



# PSS' Basa clinches three awards

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

Preston Basa collected three individual awards in the Inter Commercial Business Basketball League after Tuesday night's finals between Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Basa was the scoring champion, beating Patrick Rotap of Saipan Ice by a narrow margin. The Public School System chief gunner tallied 230 points in nine

games in the elimination round, giving him a 25.5 points per game average or 0.4 ahead of Rotap's 25.1 (226). Docomo Pacific's Tony Diaz came in third with 24.4 or 220 points total.

Basa was also the league's 3-point king after draining 51 3-pointers or a 5.66 average. Rotap (29) and PIC's Jack Aranda (18) finished second and third with 3.2 and 2.0, respectively.

The two awards were enough for Basa to claim the regular season most valuable player honors. Other awardees were Fiesta's Elmer Esdrelon, IT&E's Jason Palacios, and Saipan Ice teammates Ben Olopai and John Santy.

Esdrelon was the league's top passer after issuing close to five

assists per game with his 4.8 average. He had nine assists in Fiesta's 75-71 title win over PIC to go along with his 12 points, 11 rebounds, and two steals. Jerry Diaz of PSS and IT&E's Nate Mateo averaged 4.1 and 3.3 per game to end up second and third behind Esdrelon.

Palacios topped the steals department with an average of 3.8 per game, while Saipan Ice's Joel Fernandez and Esdrelon logged in 3.6 and 3.0, respectively.

Olopai and Santy figured prominently in the blocks and rebounds departments with the former becoming the King of Swat with a 2.6 average, followed by

the latter's 2.2. Rick Sanchez of Docomo was third in blocks (0.8). Santy was the league's No. 1 rebounder with his 12.5 a game, followed by Joeten Enterprises' Alex Lauron (10.6) and Olopai (10.5).

Fiesta's Matt Dueñas was named the finals MVP after finishing with 18 points, 13 in the first half where his team enjoyed a 40-32 lead at the break. He also had five rebounds, three assists, five steals, and one block. Fiesta, behind Lerio Pagarao's game-long brilliance, dealt PIC its first loss in the league.

PIC, aside from its runner-up finish, won the pennant, while Joeten Enterprises, which dropped a 91-71 contest against Fiesta in their knockout semis encounter, placed third.



JON PEREZ

Regular season most valuable player Preston Basa of the Public School System poses with his trophy during the awards ceremony for the Inter-commercial caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ

Pacific Islands Club-Saipan players show the pennant champion and finals runner-up trophies they received during the awards ceremony for the Inter-commercial caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

# Masaharu, Lebria are still softball batting leaders

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER



Darwin Masaharu and Liz Lebria remain the men's and women's divisions batting leaders in the ongoing Belau Softball League held every Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Masaharu, as of May 17, is batting .695 with John Pialur closely behind at .680. Payton Sakuma is at third with .666 while Joseph Celis and Julian Camacho are tied from fourth to fifth spots with .650 each.

Tom Camacho leads the lower half with .625 while Mark Toves, Poland Yamada, and Max Kadiasang are in a group with .600. Mike Sablan (.578), Jeff Cabrera (.571), and Ben Hocog (.550) complete the men's batting leaders.

Oscar Sablan, Taylor Germance, Isaia Masao, and Charley Kenty have the most doubles with three each, while 13 players are tied with 13 triples. Joseph Celis and Brel Kodeb had already blasted five home runs each, while Jerry Ayuyu belted four.

Tom Camacho and Sakuma are tied with the most number of runs with 12 apiece, while Germance and Julian Camacho

scored 11 each.

Tom Camacho, who is second behind Joseph Celis' 15 RBIs with 14, is the current strikeouts leader with 19, while Mike Sablan has already posted a 2.96 ERA in 33 innings pitched.

Lebria is leading the women's division with .761 to enjoy a .130 lead over Catalina Dela Cruz and Didi Towai's .631, while Eddilyn Benjamin, Pauline Camacho, Erlinda Naputi, Rachel Salalila, and Keolani Rios are in fourth to seventh place with .625, .590, .578, .560, and .526, respectively.

Brenda Camacho and Erin Mendiola are tied with .525 each, while Sonia Isaac is the last female to bat in .500. Juliana Ngeskebei (.481), Thelma Mizer (.478), Kuki Pangelinan (.473), and Jenny Scaliem (.473) complete the list.

Pangelinan is the current doubles leader with three, while Julie Omar and Catalina Dela Cruz are tied with the most triples with three apiece. Bert Camacho topped the most runs category with 16, while Mizer had already drove in 11 runs.

Pauline Camacho is the lone player to hit a home run, as she had already whacked four round-trippers this season. Felina Brel is the current strikeouts queen with 31, while Pina Guerrero had already posted 2.21 ERA.





Smith, James  
lead Cavs  
past Hawks in  
Game 1  
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Blue Haus,  
Armotech gain  
semis seats

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Lopez rallies to boost singles bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**C**NMI junior player Mikayla Lopez fought back from an opening set loss to make it to the quarterfinals of the singles event of the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

Lopez bowed to Japan's Makoto Ohara, 2-6, in the first set of their second round game yesterday at the Pacific Island Club hard courts, but regained her bearings quickly and swept the last two to steal the victory and arrange a Round of 8 duel today against the second-ranked Maria Dominique Ong of the Philippines at the bottom half of the draw.

Ong had an easier second round assignment, cruising past Japan's Risako Umekuni, 6-1, 6-0. Joining Ong and Lopez in the quarterfinals were Japan's Ayumi Hirata, Yuki Naito, Funa Kozaki, Haruka Hoshino, Sakura Hondo, and Ayano Shimizu.

Shimizu and Hondo took the two other quarterfinals tickets in the lower half of the draw after prevailing against compatriots Nagomo Higashitani, 6-3, 6-3, and Chisato Hayakawa, 6-1, 6-4, respectively. At the

top half of the draw, the No. 1 seeded Hirata blanked Yuna Fukumuro, 6-0, 6-0 to set up a quarterfinals meeting against Naito, a 6-3, 6-0 winner against Hong Kong's Kwan Wun Man. The other quarterfinal pairing will have Fozaki battling Hoshino after they eliminated Ayu Sugiyama, 6-3, 6-2, and Hong Kong's Yuen Liu, 6-2, 7-5.

Meanwhile, Lopez's second round victory in the singles event made her the lone CNMI player in contention for the Junior ITF event, as Negahr Rastguiz and doubles partner Nicole Tan of Hong fell to Japan's Sakura Hondo and Shimizu, 3-6, 2-6, yesterday afternoon.

Lopez also faltered in her semis bid in the doubles contest, as she and Palau's Ayana Rengil bowed to another Japanese pair in Kozaki and Naito, 1-6, 1-6. Up next for Kozaki and Naito are Higashitani and Hirata, who eliminated Akari



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Mikayla Lopez makes a baseline return during her and Ayana Rengil's doubles game against Hong Kong's Yuen Liu and Sabrina Woll in the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships last Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Miyazaki and Yumi Take-mura, 6-1, 6-1, to advance to the semifinals. The other Final Four showdown will have Hondo and Shimizu facing Man and Ohara, who got a free pass to the semis after a walk-over win against Ayu Sugiyama and Riho Yuasa.

### BOYS DIVISION

Three seeded pairs made it to the semifinals of the boys doubles event.

Australia's Jesse Delaney and Hong Kong's Ching Lam, the top-ranked duo in the main

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## Dangol wins first gold in All-Schools track meet

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Brilliant Star's Ashley Dangol clinched the first gold medal in the 12th Public School System/McDonald's All-Schools Athletics Championship after

topping the girls' U8 long jump competition during yesterday's opening at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The finals in the U8 boys' and girls' long jump were the first events to be held before the brief opening ceremony that

was attended by Northern Marianas Athletics officials, McDonald's shift manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., coaches, and parents of all participating students.

Ayuyu, in a brief opening re-



marks, congratulated all participants who made it to the finals and encouraged those who failed to qualify to train harder.

"Thank you and congratulations to all of you who participated this year. For those of you who did not make it, you gave your best but you must train harder in preparation for next year," said Ayuyu.

"To everyone, just have fun, good luck on the coming events, and stay hydrated. I would also like to thank PSS, all volunteers, and the family and friends of all the kids participating this year."

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JON PEREZ  
Brilliant Star's Ashley Dangol competes in the girls' U8 long jump event in yesterday's opening of the 12th Public School System/McDonald's All-Schools Championship at the Oleai Sports Complex.

## CNMI falls to North Korea in AFC tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team suffered back-to-back setbacks in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships (East) 2015 after losing to North Korea last Wednesday night at the National Football Training Centre in Beijing.

North Korea whipped the Commonwealth bet, 17-0, to secure the semis berth and join host China in the second round. China matched North Korea's 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record following a 7-0 victory over Hong Kong, which was scheduled to face the CNMI in the last game in Group B

**See CNMI on Page 30**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The CNMI U14 Girls National Team's starters pose for a photo before their game against North Korea in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships (East) 2015 last Wednesday night at the National Football Training Centre in Beijing, China.